



## Nevada becomes 1st U.S. state with female-majority Legislature

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nevada became the first state in the U.S. with an overall female majority in the Legislature on Tuesday when county officials in Las Vegas appointed two women to fill vacancies in the state Assembly.

The appointments of Democrats Rochelle Thuy Nguyen and Beatrice "Bea" Angela Duran to two Las Vegas-area legislative seats give women 51 percent of the 63 seats in the Legislature. Women will hold nine of 21 seats in the state Senate, falling short of a majority in that chamber. But they will hold 24 of 42 seats in the Assembly, comprising 57 percent in that chamber and giving women enough numbers to make the two chambers an overall female majority.

Continued on Page 3

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In this Feb 6, 2017, file photo, spectators look watch the Nevada State Assembly on the opening day of the Legislative Session in Carson City, Nev.

Associated Press



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## Flynn sentencing abruptly postponed; judge expresses disgust

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A federal judge abruptly postponed the sentencing of President Donald Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, on Tuesday, saying he could not hide his disgust for Flynn's crime of lying to the FBI and accusing him of selling out his country.

Lawyers for Flynn, a retired Army lieutenant general who pleaded guilty last year to lying to the agency about his Russia contacts, requested the delay during a stunning hearing in which U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan gave Flynn a blistering rebuke.

"Arguably you sold your country out," Sullivan told Flynn, who was flanked by



President Donald Trump's former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russia during the presidential transition, arrives for his sentencing at the U.S. District Court in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

his attorneys.

The judge added: "I can't hide my disgust, my disdain."

Sullivan's harsh words raised the prospect that he could

send Flynn to prison — an unexpected development since prosecutors have recommended against prison time, citing his cooperation in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe.

The delay allows Flynn to continue cooperating with the Russia probe and get credit for it in his punishment.

The hearing came amid escalating legal peril for Trump, who was implicated by federal prosecutors in New York this month in hush-money payments to cover up extramarital affairs. Nearly a half-dozen former aides and advisers — including Flynn — have pleaded guilty or agreed to cooperate with prosecutors.

Flynn became known during the Trump presidential campaign for leading chants of "Lock her up" during rallies, referring to Trump's rival Hillary Clinton. Trump signaled his continued close interest in the case by tweeting "good luck" to Flynn hours before the sentencing hearing. He added: "Will be interesting to see what he has to say, despite tremendous pressure being put on him, about Russian Collusion in

our great and, obviously, highly successful political campaign. There was no Collusion!"

At the White House afterward, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was asked if the administration had changed its stance on Flynn or the FBI in light of his admissions and guilty plea. "Maybe he did do those things, but it doesn't have anything to do with the president," she said. "It's perfectly acceptable for the president to make a positive comment about somebody while we wait to see what the court's determination is."

Sanders repeated her allegation that the FBI "ambushed" Flynn in an interview in which he denied contacts with Russian officials, and she said of Trump's earlier criticism, "We don't have any reason to want to walk that back." The new delay in sentencing upset what had been a carefully crafted agreement, with Mueller's office saying Flynn had already provided "the vast majority" of information he could.

Flynn, who served as national security adviser for only a few weeks, was to be the first White House official sentenced in Mueller's investigation. Prosecutors had praised his cooperation and recommended against prison, and Tuesday's sentencing was expected to be relatively straightforward. Flynn had expected to walk out the courthouse a free man.

But the hearing turned on a dime. Sullivan lambasted Flynn for lying to the FBI in the West Wing of the White House and said he wouldn't allow Flynn to minimize the seriousness of his crime.

After a prosecutor raised the prospect of Flynn's continued cooperation with

other investigations in the future, Sullivan warned Flynn that he might not get the full credit for his assistance to the government if he were sentenced as scheduled.

Prosecutors noted that Flynn had provided the "vast majority of his cooperation" already. But Sullivan gave a visibly shaken Flynn a chance to discuss a delay of the hearing with his lawyers, and the court went into a brief recess.

When they returned, Flynn lawyer Robert Kelner defended Flynn's cooperation but requested a postponement to allow for him to keep cooperating. Kelner said he expected Flynn would have to testify in a related trial in Virginia involving Flynn's former business associates, and the defense wanted to "eke out the last modicum of cooperation" so he could get credit in any sentence.

Kelner asked Sullivan not to penalize Flynn for arguments his lawyers made in sentencing memos that appeared to suggest the FBI had tricked Flynn into lying. He said they only included those to differentiate Flynn from other defendants in the case who had received short prison sentences for lying.

But Sullivan fired back. "Neither of those individuals were a high-ranking official who committed a crime while in the West Wing and on the premises of the White House," the judge said.

At the hearing, Sullivan told Flynn that he would take into account his extensive cooperation with the government, which includes 19 meetings with investigators as well as a 33-year military career that included service in Iraq and Afghanistan. □

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**NEVADA****Continued from Front**

No state has previously had a female-majority or even a 50 percent-female Legislature, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, which tracks women's political representation.

Women picked up seats in the Nevada Assembly and Senate during the 2018 November election but fell short of an overall majority.

Vacancies created by lawmakers who won election to other offices in November, along with one sitting female lawmaker then allowed women to gain additional seats.

Before 2018, New Hampshire was the first state to have a female majority in any legislative chamber, when women held a majority in the New Hampshire state Senate in 2009 and 2010.

With the 2018 election, women cracked the 50 percent threshold in the Nevada state Assembly and Colorado State House, but no overall majority was reached until the Nevada appointments.

"It is unprecedented at this point to see a majority female legislature overall,"

said Kelly Dittmar, an assistant professor of political science at Rutgers-Camden. With the two Nevada appointments, women will make up 28.6 percent of state legislators nationwide when new legislators are sworn into office in 2019, according to data from the Center for American Women and Politics.

Women made up 24.3 percent of state legislators in the U.S. a decade ago, the center said.

Studies of women who have served in Congress are probably comparable to female gains in state legislatures, she said, and the studies have found that "the more women you have in the body, the more that their perspectives and life experiences are integrated into policy debates and deliberations."

Dittmar said the milestone in Nevada could help change attitudes of what a state Legislature should like. "That might influence young people. It might influence other women to see that body as both friendlier to them as well as more responsive to their concerns," she said.

Nguyen, an attorney, and Duran, a grievance specialist with the state's casino

workers union, will hold their seats until the next general election in 2020.

"It's a great victory," Duran told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "Women are proving to have more knowledge and aren't afraid to show that power that they have."

Duran has been a staff member since 1999 at the

powerful Culinary Workers Union Local 226, a key political organization in the state.

Nguyen, a criminal defense lawyer, said called the milestone "fantastic."

"When women do better, I think families are stronger," Nguyen said.

The Speaker of the Assembly, Democrat Jason Fri-

erson, said in a statement that the chamber is proud to welcome both women.

"In addition to a diversity of backgrounds and life experiences," he said, "both Rochelle and Beatrice bring passion, energy, and knowledge to the State Legislature that will better serve our state and our constituents." □

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## Trump Foundation reaches deal to dissolve amid lawsuit

By MICHAEL R. SISAK  
 Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — President Donald Trump's charitable foundation reached a deal Tuesday to go out of business, even as Trump continues to fight allegations he misused its assets to resolve business disputes and boost his run for the White House. New York's attorney general and lawyers for the Trump Foundation agreed on a court-supervised process for shutting down the charity and distributing about \$1.7 million in remaining funds to other nonprofit groups.

The agreement resolved one part of the legal drama surrounding Trump, whose campaign, transition, inauguration and real estate empire are all under investigation.

Attorney General Barbara Underwood's lawsuit alleging Trump and his family illegally operated the foundation as an extension of his businesses and his presidential campaign will continue.

The lawsuit, filed last spring, seeks \$2.8 million in restitution and a 10-year ban on Trump and his three eldest children — Donald Jr., Eric and Ivanka — from running any charities in New York.



In this May 15, 2018, file photo, Barbara Underwood interviews with legislative leaders in Albany, N.Y., for the office of New York attorney general.

Associated Press

In a statement Tuesday, Underwood cited "a shocking pattern of illegality involving the Trump Foundation — including unlawful coordination with the Trump presidential campaign, repeated and willful self-dealing, and much more."

The foundation operated as "little more than a checkbook to serve Mr. Trump's business and political interests," she said.

Lawyers for the foundation

have said any infractions were minor.

Trump pledged to dissolve the three-decade-old foundation and donate its funds to charity after his 2016 election, but his lawyers said they were thwarted by the attorney general's office, which wanted oversight over its closure. The attorney general's office said it would have been "unacceptable" to let the foundation fold without

close supervision. Trump Foundation lawyer Alan Futerfas said the nonprofit has distributed approximately \$19 million over the past decade, including \$8.25 million of the president's own money, to hundreds of charitable organizations.

The agreement was reached after a New York judge last month rejected arguments from the foundation's lawyers that the lawsuit was politically motivated and should be thrown out.

Once the judge approves the deal to dissolve the charity, the two sides will have 30 days to provide her with a list of nonprofit organizations that should get the remaining funds. Each charity will get the same amount, and the attorney general's office will have the right to reject ones it deems unfit to receive funds.

In her lawsuit, Underwood alleged that Trump used the foundation to help bolster his campaign by giving out big grants of other's people money to veterans organizations during the run-up to the Iowa caucuses, the first presidential nominating contest of 2016. Trump was also accused

of directing that \$100,000 in foundation money be used to settle legal claims over an 80-foot flagpole he had built at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, instead of paying the expense out of his own pocket.

In addition, the foundation paid \$158,000 to resolve a lawsuit over a prize for a hole-in-one contest at a Trump-owned golf course; \$10,000 to buy a 6-foot (1.8-meter) portrait of Trump at a charity auction; and \$5,000 for ads promoting Trump's hotels in the programs for charitable events.

Underwood sued the Trump Foundation after taking over for fellow Democrat Eric Schneiderman, who resigned in May amid allegations he abused women. Schneiderman started investigating the foundation in 2016 and ordered it to stop fundraising in New York after The Washington Post reported that some of its spending personally benefited the presidential candidate.

Underwood has referred her office's findings to the IRS and the Federal Election Commission. Those agencies have not commented on the matter. □

# McSally lost Senate race but will fill McCain's Arizona seat

By NICHOLAS RICCIARDI  
and TERRY TANG  
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona's governor on Tuesday appointed U.S. Rep. Martha McSally to replace Sen. Jon Kyl in the seat that belonged to the late John McCain, sending the GOP congresswoman back to Washington just a month after she lost a tight race for the state's other spot in the Senate.

McSally, a former air force colonel, lost to Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema in November after a bruising contest in which she contended Sinema committed "treason" by making anti-war remarks in 2003. Now, McSally will join the Senate the same day that Sinema is sworn in.

"Arizona needs someone who understands the critical issues, can get to work on day one, and who embodies the spirit of service," Gov. Doug Ducey said at a press conference.

The governor said Sinema will be sworn in first on Jan. 3 when the Senate reconvenes after the holidays, making her Arizona's senior senator and its first woman in the chamber.

"I'm going to respect the will of the voters," Ducey said. McSally will serve until 2020, when voters will elect someone to serve the final two years of McCain's term. She tried to put the heated campaign behind her.

"I look forward to working closely with Kyrsten Sinema in the Senate, as we did in the House," McSally told reporters. "There's a lot of common ground between us, and I'm ready to hit it running."

Sinema's spokesman didn't respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

McSally also has tried to patch up frayed relations with the McCain family, whom she infuriated by following President Donald Trump's lead and not mentioning the dying senator during a signing ceremony for a defense bill named after McCain. McSally met



U.S. Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., waits to speak during a news conference Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018, at the Capitol in Phoenix, where Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, rear, announced his decision to replace U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz. with McSally in the U.S. Senate seat that belonged to Sen. John McCain.

Associated Press

with McCain's wife, Cindy, on Friday.

"My husband's greatest legacy was placing service to AZ & USA ahead of his own self-interest," Cindy McCain tweeted Tuesday. "I respect @dougducey's decision to appoint @RepMcSally to fill the remainder of his term. Arizonans will be pulling for her, hoping that she will follow his example of selfless leadership."

McSally said she would, calling the late senator an icon and hero and promising to commit "to the standard of service that Senator McCain held, putting country before self."

McCain died of brain cancer in August, and his retired longtime colleague, Kyl, was appointed to his seat. Kyl said he would only commit to serving until the end of 2018 and has resigned effective Dec. 31.

McSally's appointment puts Arizona back in the political spotlight a month after Democrats won their first statewide race in a decade. Democrats hope that the state swings again in 2020 and are expected to target it both in the presidential race and the contest for McCain's seat.

U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego, former astronaut and current gun control advocate

Mark Kelly and former Arizona Attorney General Grant Woods, who left the GOP this year, have all considered running as Democrats for the post. That they are all men may have made appointing a woman that much more desirable to the GOP.

The intense interest in the seat was a factor in Ducey's convoluted decisions. He initially appointed Kyl while the governor himself was campaigning for re-election. By picking Kyl, Ducey dodged tough political decisions that could have complicated his own re-election bid.

McSally is a two-term congresswoman long considered for the Senate by the state's GOP establishment. The first female combat pilot, McSally once sued the U.S. military so she would not be required to wear a head covering while stationed in the Middle East. She rose to the rank of colonel in the Air Force before entering politics. She got a taste for it working for Kyl's office as a national security aide.

McSally represented a swing district in Tucson that voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016. She carved out a reputation as a moderate who could win tough elections. □

That ended during this year's Senate campaign. She had been critical of Trump in 2016 but praised him during the midterm election and embraced a tougher stance on immigration. But McSally wasn't able to defeat Sinema, who ran as a centrist and peeled away enough moderate Republicans to win by 2 percentage points.

In a postelection memo, McSally strategists argued that she did well in a strong Democratic year. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell lobbied for Ducey to select her.

Still, many Arizona Republicans were disappointed by McSally's campaign and questioned whether she would be the strongest choice for McCain's seat. Ducey had limited choices — the GOP's bench is thin in Arizona and McSally was the only woman with federal experience who had campaigned statewide recently.

Democrats attacked the appointment following McSally's Senate defeat.

"Why appoint a loser when you could find a fresh face with a better shot in 2020?" the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee said in a statement. □

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## Judges push back against 'zero-tolerance' immigration policy

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — The 14 defendants had been charged with entering the country illegally. But there was a problem: When their cases were called in court, they could not show up because they had already been deported.

U.S. Magistrate Judge William Gallo quickly concluded that none of the migrants could be prosecuted — a decision that struck at the heart of the Trump administration's zero-tolerance immigration policy, which calls for treating illegal border crossing as a common crime. He dismissed all the charges and ordered that all bond money be returned.

The same scene played out every day for several weeks in San Diego — another example of judges challenging President Donald Trump's moves on immigration in ways large and small. Last month, a different judge halted an administration policy to deny asylum to people who enter the country illegally.

The dismissals did not free any migrants or allow any of them back into the U.S.



In this Dec. 2, 2018 file photo, taken from the Tijuana, Mexico, side of the border, Honduran migrants react as they surrender to the U.S. Border Patrol after crossing the border wall in to the United States.

Associated Press

But the rulings defeated the purpose of zero tolerance, which is to notch convictions.

Gallo and other California judges forced the government to choose between deporting migrants immediately or risking that

the criminal cases against them will be dropped. To avoid getting cases dismissed, the administration could not conduct the type of lightning-quick prosecutions that it practices elsewhere along the border. Federal prosecutors intro-

duced the mass hearings on immigration charges in California in July, adopting a model that has been in place for years in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The hearings soon began running past 6 p.m. regularly.

Defense attorneys frequently objected that they didn't have enough time to consult with their clients, who appeared in the same clothes they wore crossing the border a day or so earlier.

Then, on Sept. 17, Gallo announced that judges would no longer accept guilty pleas at initial appearances, as they do in Arizona and Texas. Instead, they began setting second hearings for five days later. Immigrants who posted bail before their return dates were deported.

"The government, in many respects, was duplicitous," Gallo said on a recent Friday, referring to the decision to deport defendants before they could return to court for resolution of their cases.

On the same day, Gallo dismissed charges against the 14 defendants, many of them Mexican men who were caught hiding amid boulders and thick brush in rugged mountains east of

San Diego.

If convicted, first-time offenders can be punished by up to six months in prison. They can be charged with a felony if caught again.

The administration countered on Oct. 9, saying it would not deport people until their criminal cases were completed. That stopped cases from being dismissed but introduced new problems: Keeping people in custody for longer periods strained detention space and imposed higher costs.

"They wanted it to be a one-day thing, like it is across the whole border, because it's cheaper," said Jami Ferrara, who represents defense attorneys on a panel with judges and prosecutors working on the changes. "It's not a cheap system."

It is unclear how many cases were dismissed in San Diego, but defense attorneys estimate it was hundreds.

The legal skirmishes in San Diego court have not drawn a public reaction from Trump, and the Justice Department and Customs and Border Protection agency declined to comment.

It costs the Marshals Service an average of almost \$90 a day to house a defendant. In San Diego, space is at a premium, with room for only 815 people at the main holding facility.

To address any space limitations, the Marshals Service has agreements with state and local governments and the federal Bureau of Prisons, as well as contracts with private companies, spokesman Drew Wade said.

Many defendants are unable to make bail because some judges insist they be released to "a third-party custodian" in California, often a relative who is responsible for making sure they return to court. But some family members may be reluctant to come forward if they are in the country illegally, and many live far from San Diego.

Defense attorneys have objected to the requirement. □

## Important Announcement

Information regarding the Holidays

This is to inform our readers that there will be no Aruba Today newspaper published on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th of December. For this reason we are asking our clients who want to publish advertisement on Monday 24th and Thursday 27th to please deliver all ads and artwork by 5 PM, Friday December 21 latest. We thank you for your understanding and wish you a Merry Christmas!

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## Chicago officers likely didn't see train that killed them

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Two Chicago police officers may not have seen or heard the commuter train that fatally struck them because they were focused on another train coming from the opposite direction, a department spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said "very limited" video from a body camera one of the officers was wearing helped investigators piece together how the tragedy might have happened.

The officers had run onto an elevated area of the tracks Monday night on the city's far South Side to investigate gunfire. On the video, they "clearly acknowledge" a northbound train just before the southbound train hit them, Guglielmi said.

"They must have thought the sound they heard was the northbound train," he said. "They must have missed the sound of the train right behind them."

Officers Eduardo Marmolejo and Conrad Gary were doing surveillance after Shotspotter technology that detects the sound of gunfire alerted police about shots fired in the area. Between the sound of the first train and the fact that they were focused on finding a gunman, they were unable to move off the tracks.

The man Marmolejo and Gary were pursuing was taken into custody by other officers a short time later, and a gun was recovered

near where the officers were struck. Guglielmi said the man was being questioned and had not yet been charged with any crime. "These brave young men were consumed with identifying a potential threat," Superintendent Eddie Johnson explained to reporters at a news conference late Monday night. Later, Guglielmi said, Johnson led a delegation of the department's command staff to search the area along the tracks to recover the remains of the two officers. Guglielmi said Johnson has met with the families of the two officers.

The officers were assigned to the Calumet police district. Marmolejo, 36, had been a member of the department for 2 1/2 years; Gary, 31, had been on the force for 18 months. Both were married with children. Marmolejo was the father of three children, one in high school and two younger children; Gary had a 6-month-old daughter. Four Chicago police officers now have been killed in the line of duty this year. The tragedy bore similarities to the 2002 death of Chicago Police Officer Benjamin Perez, who was fatally struck by a commuter train while conducting surveillance on narcotics activity on the city's West Side.

Officer Samuel Jimenez was killed in a shootout last month after he chased a gunman inside a hospital on Chicago's South Side. That shooter also killed two

other people before taking his own life. And in February, Cmdr. Paul Bauer was fatally shot while pursuing a suspect in the Loop business district. The total is the highest number of Chicago officers killed in the line of duty in one year since five were killed in 2010. Their deaths mark the first time two officers died in the same incident since 1990, according to Dave Bayless, spokesman for the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation. □

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A Chicago police officer stands on the street following the procession with the bodies as two fallen Chicago police officers arrive at the medical examiner's office in Chicago, Tuesday morning, Dec. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

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## Belgian PM offers to resign after migration tears government

By LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel submitted his resignation Tuesday amid pressure on his government after the biggest coalition party quit over Michel's support for a United Nations compact on international migration. "I am taking the decision to offer my resignation. I am now going to see the king" to inform him, Michel told Belgian lawmakers.

Before the prime minister gave his notice, lawmakers had been demanding he submit his new minority government to a confidence vote. But Michel refused, and a confrontation this week seemed likely. Michel tried to convince the Chamber of Representatives of the reshaped government's plans and said he would be ready to work with the opposition, but his overtures were rejected. His 2019 budget was among the sensitive



In this file photo dated Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel arrives for an EU summit in Brussels.

Associated Press

topics up for debate. Some in the assembly pushed for an election to be held before the regularly scheduled one in May. Michel again refused, saying it would only lead to "stagnation for the whole of 2019." After a short break for reflection, he announced he was resigning instead. As lawmakers applauded, he picked up his briefcase, shook the hands of a num-

ber of government ministers, and left. Michel made no comment to reporters upon entering and leaving Belgian King Philippe's residence, the Palace of Laeken in Brussels. The king holds a largely symbolic role in Belgium but becomes a pivotal figure after inconclusive elections or disputes like the current one require the formation of new governments.

In a tweet, the Royal Palace said Philippe had received Michel and was "withholding his decision" about what steps to take next.

Belgian media said the king would meet party leaders Wednesday before deciding whether to accept the resignation the prime minister tendered on behalf of himself and his government.

Michel could be invited to lead a caretaker government until an election can be held.

It's the first time the king has faced such a crisis. He ascended to the throne in 2013 after his father, King Albert II, abdicated for health reasons.

The right-wing N-VA party quit the government after Michel sought parliamentary approval to support the U.N. compact against its wishes, branding his minority government "the Marrakech coalition," after the city where the migra-

tion treaty was signed just over a week ago.

The accord is non-binding, but the N-VA said it still went too far and would give even migrants who were in Belgium without authorization many additional rights. The party launched an in-your-face social media campaign against the compact, featuring pictures of Muslim women with their faces covered and claiming that the accord focused on allowing migrants to retain the cultural practices of their homelands. But it quickly withdrew the materials after the campaign received widespread criticism.

A number of governments refused to sign the U.N. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. They included the United States, but also a group of European Union countries, among them Austria which holds the EU's rotating presidency until Dec. 31. □

## Spanish court gears up for high-stakes trial of separatists

By ARITZ PARRA

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — A preliminary hearing in a rebellion case against Catalan separatists Tuesday displayed some of the dynamics between defense and prosecutors expected during a trial that is likely to dominate Spanish politics.

Altogether, 18 former politicians and activists from the Catalonia region are charged with rebellion, sedition, disobedience and misuse of public funds for their parts in an attempt to secede from Spain last year.

At Tuesday's hearing, a panel of seven magistrates heard from defense attor-

neys who argued the trial should be heard by the top regional court in Catalonia rather than Spain's highest court in Madrid.

Prosecutors countered that Madrid was the proper venue, saying the events that led regional lawmakers to make a unilateral declaration of independence on Oct. 27, 2017 had ramifications outside of Catalonia. The country's top court also has jurisdiction, prosecutors argued, because the secession attempt affected all Spaniards.

Supreme Court judges rejected similar defense appeals during the investigative stage of the case. A final decision is expected



Spanish judges preside over a preliminary hearing at the Supreme Court in Madrid, Tuesday Dec. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

later this week. If the top court keeps the case, former Catalan Vice President Oriol Junqueras, activist-turned-politician

ary.

Four defendants are three weeks into a prison hunger strike to protest what they deem unfair treatment by Spain's judiciary. Central government authorities say there is no reason for the strike and the defendants' rights are guaranteed by Spain's independent judiciary.

The "trial of the century," as it's been labeled by domestic media, has taken a high political significance. Separatists in the northeastern region have made clear that they will use proceedings to prove that they are being tried for their ideas, and in particular for advancing a secessionist agenda. □



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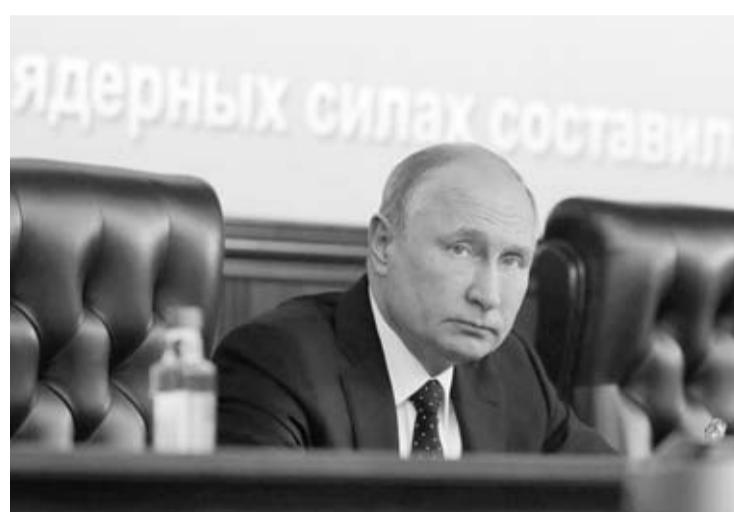
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## Putin: Russia has enough missiles without violating treaty

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday rejected the U.S. claim that Russia developed a new cruise missile in violation of a key nuclear treaty, arguing that Russia has no need for such a land-based weapon because it already has similar missiles on its ships and aircraft.

Washington warned this month it would suspend its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) in 60 days if Russia did not return to full compliance. The U.S. claims the 9M729 cruise missile breaches the INF, which bans all land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (300 to 3,400 miles.)



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting with the top military staff in the Russian Defense Ministry's headquarters in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

Moscow has repeatedly denied the accusation. Speaking to Russia's top military brass Tuesday, Putin rejected the U.S. claim of

developing a land-based cruise missile, saying Russia now has similar air- and sea-launched weapons to do the job.

Putin said the Russian military has successfully tested air-launched Kh-101 and sea-launched Kalibr cruise missiles with a range of 4,500 kilometers (2,790 miles) in combat in Syria. "It has probably made our partners worry, but it doesn't violate the INF treaty," Putin said.

Putin said the treaty signed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev didn't limit sea- and air-launched cruise missiles, which the Soviet Union didn't have at the time and the United States did in significant numbers.

The Russian president argued that the pact represented "unilateral disarmament" for the Soviet Union,

adding: "God only knows why the Soviet leadership did it."

He emphasized that with Russian strategic bombers and navy ships now armed with long-range cruise missiles, it makes the development of similar land-based weapons redundant.

"It makes no difference whatsoever if we have a Kalibr-armed submarine or aircraft carrying missiles or similar weapons ashore," he said. "We can strike any targets within the range of 4,500 kilometers from the territory of Russia."

Putin added, however, that Russia could easily build such land-based missiles if the U.S. opts out of the INF Treaty, which he described as a key stabilizing factor. □

## Hungary: Opposition vows renewed protests after holiday lull

By KESTER EDDY

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)

— Street demonstrations against recent labor law changes in Hungary appeared to wane on their sixth day, but opposition lawmakers vowed Tuesday to pursue legal and parliamentary avenues to thwart the government while allowing for a Christmastime lull.

About 150 to 200 people assembled outside the Hungarian parliament building in Budapest Tuesday evening, compared to an estimated 2,000 that confronted police a night earlier at the headquarters of state broadcaster MTVA. One opposition lawmaker

was sent to the hospital Monday after a clash with MTVA security guards; tests showed he had internal bruising, but no broken bones. Three others complained of rough treatment. Timea Szabo, a lawmaker for the center-left Dialogue party, said the opposition remained committed to fighting the government-initiated changes to overtime work laws.

"We're planning civil disobedience actions, road blocks with the trade unions, and further demonstrations," Szabo told foreign journalists on Tuesday. She declined to give details, citing the need to both coordinate action and maintain "the element

of surprise".

The main focus of the protests has been a law allowing employers to request up to 400 overtime hours from their workers annually - potentially reintroducing a six-day week - while delaying payments for up to three years.

The right-wing government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban, which won a third consecutive term in April's national election, said the overtime rules were designed to ease an acute labor shortage and to enable workers to earn more. The government has said that working overtime will be voluntary for employees. However, critics say that in practice, the



Anti-government demonstrators march across Margaret Bridge over the River Danube with the Parliament building in the background, in Budapest, Hungary, Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018.

Associated Press

changes invite coercion of industrial sector workers who have had their rights subdued for decades.

"According to word of the law, there has to be consensus between the employer and employee. □

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## Truce brings hope for Yemen, but peace could prove elusive

By AHMED AL-HAJ

SAMY MAGDY

SANA'A, Yemen (AP) —

A cease-fire on Tuesday halted months of heavy fighting in Yemen's port city of Hodeida, raising hopes that the latest U.N.-led peace efforts can end the civil war and alleviate the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

But the truce in the Red Sea city remains fragile, and it's unclear if the Saudi-backed government and the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels can reach a wider peace agreement despite mounting international pressure to end the war.

Yemeni officials said the fighting in Hodeida subsided early Tuesday as the cease-fire took effect, with only sporadic fire from automatic weapons heard across the city.

Some 70 percent of Yemen's food imports and humanitarian aid enter through Hodeida, which remained open even as the Saudi-led coalition waged a months-long campaign that failed to dislodge the rebels. Aid groups feared the port's closure could plunge Yemen into famine. The truce agreement, reached last week at U.N.-brokered talks in Sweden, calls on both sides to withdraw from the city and its outskirts. A joint committee led by U.N. officers will oversee the cease-fire and the redeployment of forces. Local authorities and police will run the city and its three port facilities under U.N. supervision.

U.N. envoy Martin Griffiths has said the committee will get to work swiftly "to translate the momentum built up in Sweden into achieve-



In this Sept. 27, 2018 file photo, a father gives water to his malnourished daughter at a feeding center in a hospital in Hodeida, Yemen.

Associated Press

ments on the ground."

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Maj. Gen. Patrick Cammaert, who has been appointed to head the coordination committee overseeing the cease-fire, will depart New York with a team later this week headed for Yemen.

He said the Dutch general will convene a first meeting of the committee, which includes military and security representatives from the government and the rebels, by videoconference on Wednesday.

Yemen's four-year conflict pits the internationally recognized government, backed by a coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, against Shiite rebels known as Houthis. Iran supports the rebels, but denies allegations from the coalition, Western countries and U.N. experts that it is arming

them.

The fighting has killed tens of thousands of people, and has driven millions to the brink of starvation. The U.N. calls it the world's worst humanitarian disaster.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt welcomed the cease-fire, urging all warring parties "to stick to the terms agreed at peace talks last week in Stockholm so we can achieve a long-term political solution to this horrific crisis and end the suffering of so many."

The cease-fire is the first step in a process the U.N. hopes will lead to a province-wide truce in Hodeida and the demilitarization of the Red Sea trade corridor, said Peter Salisbury, a senior analyst at the Brussels-based International Crisis Group.

"But it's important to note that the deal itself is quite specific in saying that this is

not part of a wider peace process: It's an agreement made for humanitarian rather than political reasons," he said.

The United States, which supports the Saudi-led coalition, has stepped up pressure to end the fighting amid the fallout from the killing of Saudi dissident journalist and Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents, which brought renewed international attention to Yemen's stalemate war.

That provided a boost to Griffiths' efforts to bring the two sides together in Sweden. In addition to agreeing on a cease-fire for Hodeida, they also exchanged lists of prisoners ahead of a planned swap to be carried out with the Red Cross.

But a wider agreement could prove elusive.

The Houthis, who have

seized and held much of northern Yemen, including the capital, Sanaa, at great cost, have consistently rejected the government's demands that they withdraw and give up their heavy weapons.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, meanwhile, view the rebels as an increasingly dangerous Iranian proxy. The rebels have fired ballistic missiles deep into Saudi Arabia and have attacked vessels in the Red Sea. The conflict has caused a humanitarian catastrophe. Emaciated children are being brought to overwhelmed clinics, and in some areas families are surviving off leaves boiled into a sour green paste. The fighting and displacement have also generated a cholera epidemic.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Sunday that if Yemen's humanitarian situation does not improve, 14 million people will be in need of food aid in 2019, 6 million more than this year.

"There is a high level of hunger in Yemen," he said, adding that even though the situation has not technically been declared a famine "does not in any way diminish our huge concern with the very high level of hunger that exists."

Last week, an international group tracking Yemen's civil war reported that the conflict has killed more than 60,000 people, both combatants and civilians, since 2016. That is much higher than the U.N. figure of 10,000 civilian deaths, and has added to the urgency to find a political resolution. □



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## China will 'never seek hegemony,' Xi says in reform speech

By YANAN WANG

BEIJING (AP) — China will never pursue hegemony, President Xi Jinping said Tuesday as global concerns persist over the country's growing economic influence.

During a speech to mark 40 years of market reforms, Xi repeated China's commitment to a multilateral trading system and further opening of its economy. However, he did not announce any new initiatives to counter a slowing economy and trade frictions with the United States.

The Chinese leader said China would not develop "at the expense of other countries' interests."

China's expanding footprint worldwide — from Asia-Pacific to Africa and beyond through a broad network of infrastructure projects called the Belt and Road Initiative — has led some nations to raise the

alarm over what they call China's long arm of influence, which has been criticized for being political as well as economic.

While Xi said China is "increasingly approaching the center of the world stage," he also noted that the country pursues a defensive national defense policy.

"China's development does not pose a threat to any country," Xi said. "No matter how far China develops, it will never seek hegemony."

Xi chronicled at length the country's recent achievements, giving special credit to former leader Deng Xiaoping, whose reforms Xi said saved China from the brink of economic collapse following the tumultuous Cultural Revolution. Other celebrations of reform and opening up have been criticized by scholars for downplaying the role of Deng, widely considered



Chinese President Xi Jinping applauds during a conference to commemorate the 40th anniversary of China's Reform and Opening Up policy at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

the architect of the changes, in order to elevate Xi. This time around, Xi spared no praise for Deng, as he began by remarking on the significance of 1978 — the year Deng implemented his first reforms.

During the ceremony, 100 individuals were recog-

nized as pioneers of reform. The eclectic slate included NBA player Yao Ming, Alibaba founder Jack Ma and Nobel prizewinning scientist Tu Youyou. They received their medals to the tune of "Story of Spring," a patriotic ballad paying tribute to Deng.

Throughout, Xi emphasized the absolute rule of the Communist Party and its upholding of Chinese sovereignty.

"No one is in a position to dictate to the Chinese people what should or should not be done," he said. "We will resolutely reform what can and needs to be reformed, and we will resolutely uphold what cannot and does not need to be changed."

Xi's speech espoused "above all else," said Julian Gewirtz, an international affairs scholar at Harvard, "the distinctiveness and absolute correctness of China's path under the party's leadership."

"This was a broad attempt to provide a really positive, confidence-building story of China's past 40 years and its future," said Gewirtz, who has written a book about China's economic reforms. □



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## Guatemala pulls diplomatic credentials of UN body's workers

By SONIA PEREZ D.  
Associated Press

**GUATEMALA CITY (AP)** — Guatemalan authorities said Tuesday that they have withdrawn diplomatic immunity from 11 workers with a U.N.-sponsored anti-graft commission who have investigated cases of alleged corruption — including ones targeting President Jimmy Morales' son and brother.

The move marks the latest salvo from Morales in his running dispute with the commission, known as CICIG for its initials in Spanish, after the president refused to renew its mandate in the country earlier this year and then barred its chief from returning to

Guatemala from a business trip to the United States. In a notice in the official publication Diario de Centroamerica, the Foreign Ministry said the investigators' credentials had been voided and they were being asked to return them. It added that they no longer "enjoy the privileges and immunities" of their posts. Commission spokesman Matias Ponce said those affected are investigators and litigators involved in high-profile cases. They include lawyers Cesar Rincon and Luis Fernando Orozco, who for years have worked on investigations including one that led to the resignation of now ex-President Otto Perez Molina.



In this Aug. 31, 2018 file photo, firecrackers go off as a supporter in favor of a decision by Guatemala's President Jimmy Morales to shut down a U.N.-sponsored anti-graft commission led by Ivan Velasquez, in Guatemala City.

Associated Press

Ponce argued that diplomatic immunity for CICIG employees is established under the agreement that created it, and that only

the body's commissioner has the authority to withdraw that protection. "The measure seeks to hurt the independence of the

work ... be it in the investigations or various litigations in progress," Ponce said, "in addition to constituting an opportunity for possible criminal prosecution against the workers."

During its 11 years operating in Guatemala, CICIG has pressed corruption cases that have implicated more than 600 people including elected officials, businesspeople and bureaucrats. Perez Molina, who is behind bars awaiting trial, denies the corruption allegations against him.

The commission has also tried to bring a case involving purported illegal campaign financing against Morales, who similarly denies the allegations. □

## Venezuelan migrants hit Peru's street, dancing to survive

By FRANKLIN BRICENO  
Associated Press

**LIMA, Peru (AP)** — The three Venezuelan migrants eke out a living 90 seconds at a time in a busy intersection of Peru's capital. When the traffic light flashes red, the acrobatics and break dancing starts.

With a captive audience of pedestrians and commuters packed inside city buses, the dancers' headstands, dizzying spins and fast-paced steps on a good day net up to \$20 in pocket change — nearly three times the monthly minimum wage in Venezuela.

It also earned them a brush with a Hollywood superstar Angelina Jolie.

"You never know how it will go in the street," said danc-



In this Dec. 12, 2018 photo, Venezuelan Karin Rojas balances on her head as she breakdances with Angel Fernandez for tips from commuters in Lima, Peru.

Associated Press

er Karin Rojas. "One day it's good and the next day it's bad."

The trio is just part of a flood of Venezuelans fighting for

survival after fleeing their homeland and the worst economic crisis anybody in Latin America can remember.

Most Venezuelan migrants head to neighboring Colombia, overwhelming border towns. They hawk their valuables on the street, sell hotdogs or repair shoes. Farther-off Peru is the second-most-common destination.

Rojas, 25, and her husband, Francisco Diaz, arrived in Lima in 2016, leaving behind their mountainous home in the Venezuelan state of Merida, where they ran a break dancing collective.

In Peru, they met the third partner, Angel Fernandez, a short and stout 22-year-old from their home state. The three settled on a busy intersection in Lima to perform.

Six days a week, they

bound into the intersection with each red light — an exhausting 80 times over a 13-hour workday. They end some days just \$5 richer, and hurting physically.

The sun cooks the asphalt. Their palms are covered in calluses and fingers sometimes bleed. Rojas says her bones ache and her head throbs.

Still, Rojas said, their life is better than in Venezuela, where she would go two days in a row without eating. Now, she can afford three meals a day.

Their dancing also caught the attention of Jolie in October, when the American actress visited Lima as a special envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. □



## They Make Christmas Shine

EAGLE BEACH — Casa del Mar Beach Resort & Timeshare offers you paradise: an oceanfront location on the white sandy Eagle Beach, the amazing blue-green colored Caribbean ocean, wonderful luxury oceanfront or poolside timesharing suites and a world of amenities like a spa, restaurants, a pool and a gym. But there is one time of the year that comes with an extra touch: the Christmas season. At the resort there is a quartet that makes Christmas sparkle: meet the Holiday Committee of Casa del Mar Beach Resort & Timeshare.

Bea or Bee Schwengle-Geerman is Membership and Reservations Coordinator, Magda Fingal-Maduro is Room Attendant and Geraldine Marina Coello's function is Housekeeping Coordinator. They are friends and colleagues and together with Omar Tromp, the Maintenance Coordinator, they form the Christmas Committee of the resort.

### Cheer Up

The four make sure the resort look cheerful during this holiday season as a great ambiance makes people happy and smile. Bea: "The Christmas season is the most wonderful season to me, I love it. I can get lost decorating and help others in that matter too. At home I help my nieces, nephews and sisters with transforming their house into a Christmas fairytale." Geraldine explains that they are responsible to dress up all corners of the resort, from the offices to the membership lounge to the lobby. "The materials are here already, but in case we need more it is our task to purchase them too. We decide on where to put what. I have been doing this already for 9 years, so we know how to organize." The committee also assists in organizing the employee Christmas Party on December 16th and the end of the year party that will take place in the Members Lounge.

### Deeper Meaning

The ladies explain that Christmas is not just a festivity to them. They were raised with the deeper meaning of it and prepare to go to church. "It is embedded in our culture as a religious experience and we work towards that special day during the complete month. It may not be like this for all, but most certainly to us the believing is the most important part", Bea says.

*Casa del Mar would like to welcome you to their family of owners with suites available for sale or rental year round.*

Magda states this time of the year she uses to reflects and motivate herself to keep on going. "It is a magic time to me, the most beautiful part of the year." That reflection is something all can agree upon and for Bea also counts the fact that she is with her family. "We do not only feel the connection at home, at work we have a family too and this season of the year our collegial bond is extra strong." □



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## Watching Fashion in an Ocean Breeze

ORANJESTAD — Once a year, our Oranjestad boardwalk becomes a runway, showcasing the creations by fashion designers from Aruba and all over the world. Aruba's Fashion & Luxury Tourism Week is an international event held annually in our paradisiacal island to effectively invite High Profile Travelers and offer them an unforgettable 3-Day fashion & luxury travel Experience in Aruba.



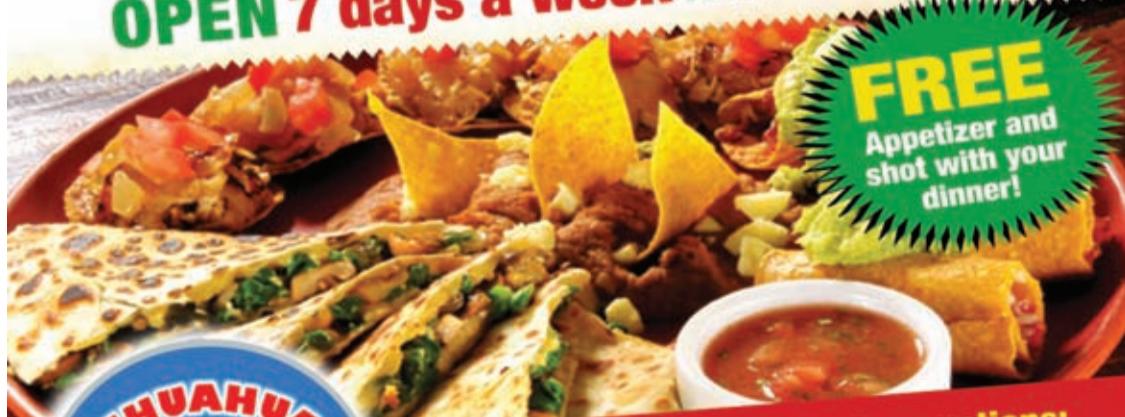
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The last day, Sunday December 16th the catwalk was taken by designers and brands Daniella Batlle Boutique, Olga Bolaños, Labellamafia & GIANNINA AZAR. The last one was definitely a favorite among the audience. Before the show started, around 8.30 PM, local CEO/Program Developer and host of Trend Alert Today Tessa Pietersz officially launched her website and app for the program Trend Alert. Just before designer Azar sent her models on the catwalk, the winner of the competition of local designers was announced and presented. Mims Ras was the happy winner out of a contest of talented local future designers. Congratulations to the young talent. □



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## Another successful 'HOLIDAY GIFT PROJECT' The Association of Cruise ships FCCA, A.T.A. and SANTA CLAUS surprise FATIMA COLLEGE



ORANJESTAD -The principal and teachers of Fatima College, together with representatives of the Aruba Tourism Authority, had a big secret for the students of the school and it was an explosion of joy when they received an unexpected visit from the crew members of the Caribbean Princess together with Santa.

Santa and his helpers walked into the school with their hands full of gifts for all the students. The human resource agent in charge of the Caribbean Princess Cruise explained that this was his first trip to Aruba and loved the reaction of the kids. He also stated that the Holiday Gift Project of the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) is a fantastic experience,

seeing the smiles on the kids' faces. It was a unique moment shared with the community of Aruba.

Kimberley Richardson and Marouska Heyliger of the Aruba Tourism Authority were in charge of making this a success and thanked the crew of Caribbean Princess.

This worldwide project has

been in existence for more than 20 years. All islands where the cruise ships of the FCCA ports are familiar with this project. This is the FCCA's way of expressing their appreciation towards the community for their hospitality and cooperation offered to their cruise members. At each port, the crew of different cruises delivers over 200 gifts together with Santa to different organizations and schools. This year they choose the Fatima College in Dakota. Franklin Richardson, principal of the school, said it was the first an event like this happened at their school and therefore kept the project as a surprise for the children. It was an unforgettable experience for the entire school and they were very grateful. □



## Bohemian Restaurant: Check In Please

PALM BEACH — Avant-garde from France, nonconformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about and TONIGHT they even top the eclectic vibe with live Flamenco singer Angela Baidez. Bohemian Restaurant is a different swing, European flair and outside dining, a place from the same owner as the for years already successful Casa Tua restaurants. They know their dance well, but this time they lift it to a different level.

From 8 PM tonight Spanish Paella and much more is on the menu, of course with pairing wines. The beautiful garden of Bohemian will be filled with lights, good food and live music in an intimate, hip and off-beat ambiance. Catchy Rumba Gitana and dramatic Spanish ballads combine with the passionately prepared dishes to tickle your taste buds to the max. Bohemian Restaurant is located on the corner



of Barceló Resort in the center of the hi-rise frenzy.

Free Parking available at the parking lot in front of Barcelo Resort. Make your reservations through their website: <https://bohemianaruba.com>. Call them at 00 297 280 8448. Facebook: Bohemian. □



## Aruba to Me



ORANJESTAD — We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory.

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Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you

a happy reader every day again. For today's newspaper we received some great pictures from Shani Fisher and Bari Fisher. They wrote: "Aruba to us means Fisher Family Fun and relaxation on our annual trip to One happy island." This year their Aunt Tina couldn't make the trip but they brought her along with them around the island. □

## Today's Happening



## A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 19

## Bohemian Restaurant

- Enjoy the best paella on the island, wine-pairing, some flamenco & Rumba Gitana music and a beautiful garden at this new kid in town.
- Starts at 8:00 PM
- At the corner of Barcelo Restaurant
- Facebook Bohemian



Saturday 22

## Cadushi Festival

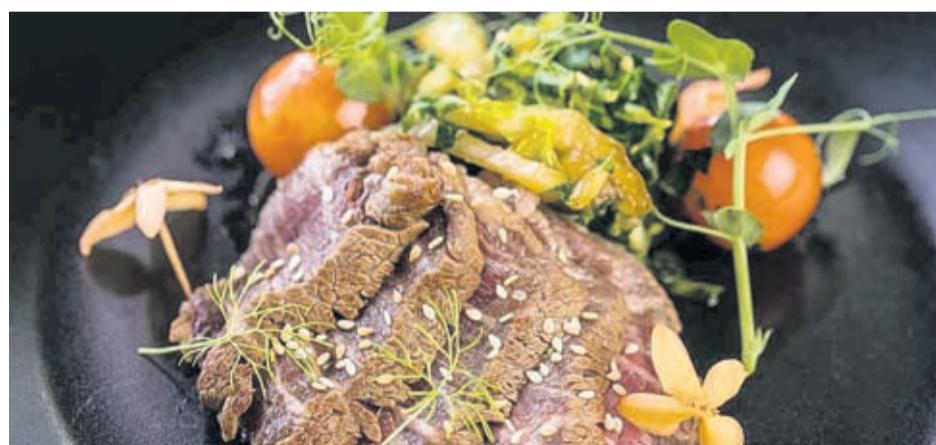
- Come support our local small business, Farmers, artists and creators of all kinds at the 5th Christmas edition of Cadushi Festival.
- From 5:00 PM till 11:00 PM
- Plaza Nicky Habibe, Oranjestad
- Facebook Cadushi Festival



Thursday 20

## Caribbean Explosion

- Palm Beach Plaza Mall invites you to the spectacular 'Caribbean Explosion' Show
- Starts at 8:00 PM
- Palm Beach Plaza Mall
- Facebook Palm Beach Plaza Mall



Friday 21

## Haikobe Night at L.G. Smith Steakhouse

- As the only restaurant in Aruba serving this famous Japanese steak; Indulge in its tenderness and admire the well-marbled texture accompanied by high-end wines. The perfect combination you don't want to miss.
- From 6:00 PM till 10:00 PM
- L.G. Smith's Steak & Chophouse, Renaissance
- Facebook L.G. Smith's Steak & Chophouse

Sunday 23

## Flea Market at Corner of my 'Kunuku' in Ayo

- Are you looking for some local products, good ambience and at the same same time mingle with the locals? Then this is the place to be! Hosted by Skina di mi Kunuku.
- From 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM
- Ayo 51-B, Next to Ayo Rock Formation
- Facebook Skina di mi Kunuku



Monday 24

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- Facebook Bugaloe

Tuesday 25  
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- Facebook Ban Serio Aruba



# SPORTS



Day eyes return to No. 1, even if it costs him sleep

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer

Jason Day wants to get back to No. 1 in the world, and he's willing to lose sleep over it.

"There has to be some kind of sacrifice," Day said in the Bahamas before shutting it down for the year. "I was reading the Kobe Bryant book, and he knew there was something he had to sacrifice, so he sacrificed sleep. Because he couldn't sacrifice family, he couldn't sacrifice competing, and not working.

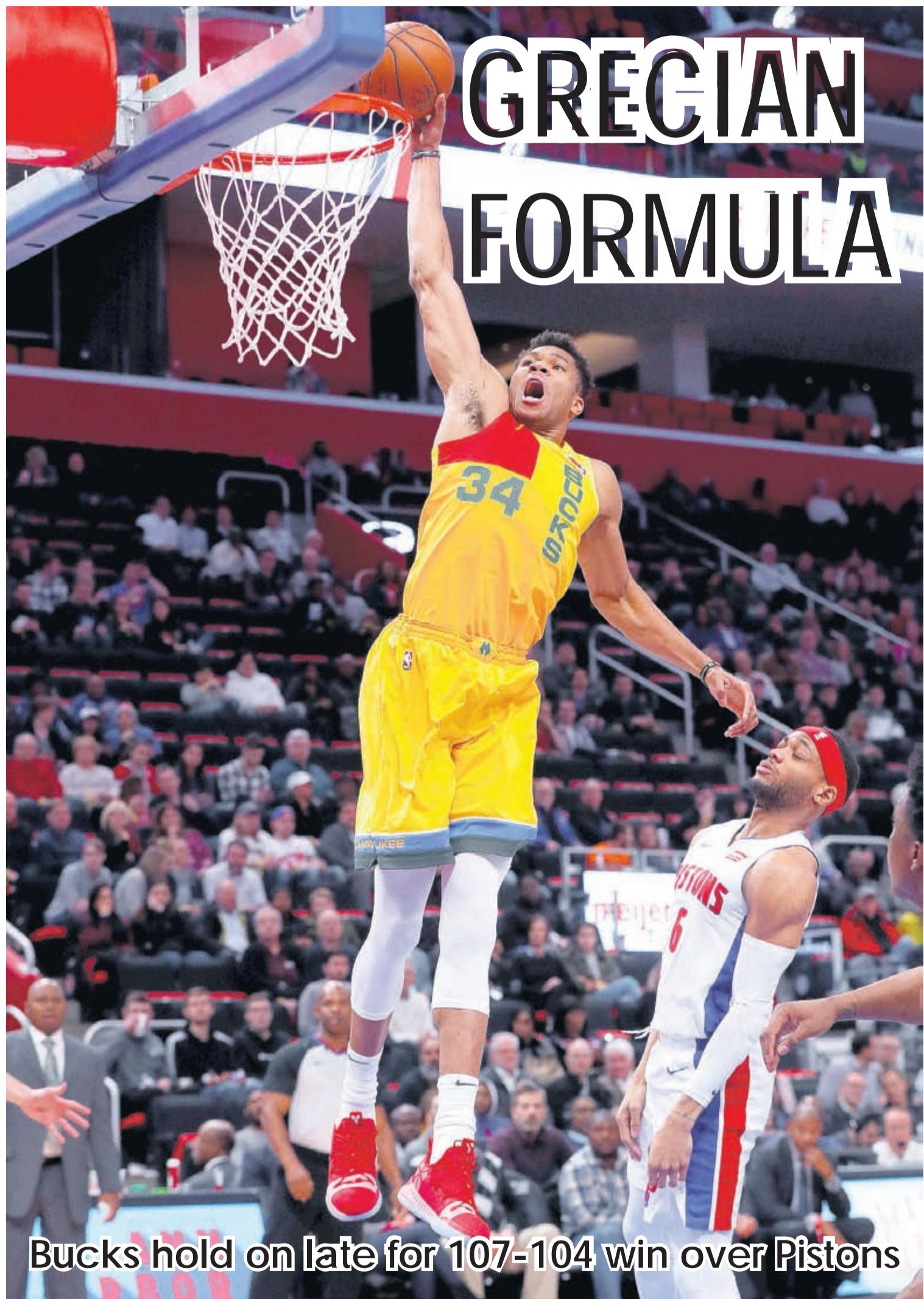
"What can I sacrifice?" he added with a smile. "Sleep." Day knows the cost of being the best golfer on the planet because he already reached that summit.

He first reached No. 1 in the fall of 2015 after winning five times that year, including his first major at the PGA Championship. The following spring, he won three more tournaments in a span of six starts, capped by a wire-to-wire victory in The Players Championship that gave him the highest points average in the world ranking since Tiger Woods. He stayed No. 1 for 47 weeks and looked to be the dominant player he always wanted to be.

Getting back might be even tougher.

The 31-year-old Australian thought he was on the right track when he started the year by winning in a playoff at Torrey Pines, his first victory in more than 18 months.

# GREGIAN FORMULA



**Bucks hold on late for 107-104 win over Pistons**

Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) dunks against the Detroit Pistons in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Detroit, Monday, Dec. 17, 2018.

Continued on Page 22

Associated Press  
Page 20

# Henrique, Getzlaf help Ducks win again, beat Penguins 4-2

By The Associated Press

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Adam Henrique and Ryan Getzlaf each had a goal and an assist, and the Anaheim Ducks rallied past the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-2 on Monday night.

The Ducks won for the ninth time in 10 games despite spotting the Penguins a two-goal lead. Henrique started the comeback with a power-play goal early in the second period and Getzlaf's empty net tally in the final minute pushed Anaheim to its sixth straight road win. Ondrej Kase and Kiefer Sherwood also scored for the Ducks.

John Gibson, a Pittsburgh native, stopped 28 shots, including the final 24 he faced to pick up the victory in his hometown.

Evgeni Malkin got his 11th goal of the season for Pittsburgh and Bryan Rust added his sixth but the Penguins couldn't cool off the Ducks. Casey DeSmith finished with 32 saves but lost for only the third time in his last 11 starts.

## BLUE JACKETS 1, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 0

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — Nick Foligno scored 40 seconds into the third period, Sergei Bobrovsky made 28 saves and Columbus beat Vegas.

Foligno found the rebound after Seth Jones' shot and knocked it past goalie Malcolm Subban from the doorstep.

Bobrovsky got his 25th career shutout and first this season.

He repelled a late attack by the Golden Knights after Subban was pulled for an extra skater with a minute left.

Subban performed well starting in place of Marc-Andre Fleury in the second game of a back-to-back. He made 30 saves.

## ISLANDERS 4, AVALANCHE 1

**DENVER (AP)** — Goaltender Thomas Greiss bottled up Colorado's fast-flying offense and Johnny Boychuk scored his first goal of the season for New York.

Jordan Eberle and Anders Lee also scored while Valtteri Filppula added an

empty-netter as the Islanders began a four-game trip in fine fashion. Greiss made 30 saves and helped put an end to Mikko Rantanen's string of 14 straight games with at least a point. The streak was tied for the Avalanche's third-longest since the team moved to town in 1995-96.

Gabriel Landeskog scored Colorado's only goal. Semyon Varlamov struggled yet again, allowing three goals on 20 shots. He's surrendered 21 over his last five appearances.

## SENATORS 4, PREDATORS 3, OT

**OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)** — Thomas Chabot scored 21 seconds into overtime and Ottawa recovered after blowing a three-goal lead. Ottawa led 3-0 after the first period, but Roman Josi got two goals and Craig Smith also scored to tie it for Nashville.

Maxime Lajoie, Brady Tkachuk and Ryan Dzingel scored for the Senators, who handed Nashville its first loss against an Eastern Conference opponent. Craig Anderson stopped 31 shots.

Pekka Rinne started in net for Nashville but was pulled after allowing three goals on 11 shots. That ended his seven-game unbeaten streak against the Senators. Juuse Saros relieved and made 11 saves.

## BRUINS 4, CANADIENS 0

**MONTREAL (AP)** — Jaroslav Halak stopped 22 shots for his third shutout of the season and Boston beat Montreal.

Joakim Nordstrom, Colby Cave, David Krejci and Brad Marchand scored for the Bruins, who snapped a two-game skid. Boston was on the second game of a back-to-back after losing 4-2 in Buffalo on Sunday.

Halak improved to 5-0-0 when facing former teammate Carey Price, and helped the Bruins leapfrog the Canadiens for the first wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference.

Price, vying for his 300th career victory, finished with 31 saves as the Canadiens lost for just the second time in seven games. □



Anaheim Ducks' Ryan Getzlaf (15) scores an empty net goal as Pittsburgh Penguins' Jake Guentzel (59) defends during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, Dec. 17, 2018, in Pittsburgh. The Ducks won 4-2.

Associated Press

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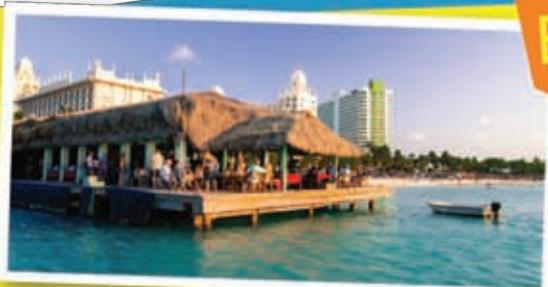
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## Giannis has 32 and 12 as Bucks hold off Pistons 107-104

By The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 12 rebounds, and the Milwaukee Bucks held on for a 107-104 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Monday night when Blake Griffin missed a last-second 3-pointer.

Griffin actually missed two 3s in the final 14 seconds. The Detroit star already had a triple-double after three quarters, but it was a quiet fourth for him. Griffin finished with 19 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds, but he also had 10 turnovers.

The Pistons rallied from a 15-point, third-quarter deficit and took an 89-86 lead in the fourth. Antetokounmpo put Milwaukee up by three with a dunk, then added a three-point



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) charges into Detroit Pistons forward Blake Griffin (23) in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Detroit, Monday, Dec. 17, 2018.

Associated Press

play and a driving layup to make it 107-100.

**ROCKETS 102, JAZZ 97**

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden scored 47 points to help Houston hold off Utah

for its fourth straight win. It was the Rockets' first victory over the Jazz this season after dropping the first two meetings. The team's current winning streak

comes following a three-game skid.

Houston led by double digits early in the fourth quarter, but poor shooting left the Rockets tied with about two minutes left. A 3-pointer by Harden put Houston back on top and he added two free throws with about a minute remaining to make it 99-94.

Under heavy pressure, Harden stepped back and hit a 3 to make it 102-97 with 13.3 seconds left.

Donovan Mitchell had 23 points for the Jazz, who have lost four of five.

Harden, who made 15 of 16 free throws, had six rebounds, five assists and five steals.

**WARRIORS 110, GRIZZLIES 93**

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry had 20 points and seven rebounds to lead Golden State past Memphis.

Curry became the fifth player in Warriors history to score 15,000 points during the regular season — joining Wilt Chamberlain, Rick Barry, Paul Arizin and Chris Mullin.

Kevin Durant had 23 points and passed Larry Bird (21,791) for 33rd place on the NBA's career scoring list. Klay Thompson added 16 points.

Golden State led by 25 in the second quarter in quickly turning the game into a rout. That allowed

coach Steve Kerr to rest many of his regulars as the Warriors began a busy stretch with eight games before the end of the year. Marc Gasol had 15 points, six rebounds and six assists

for the Grizzlies, who lost their third straight and fifth in six games. Omri Casspi scored a season-high 20 against his former team.

**TRAIL BLAZERS 131, CLIPPERS 127**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Damian Lillard scored 22 of his 39 points in a dominant third quarter and Portland defeated Los Angeles.

Lillard hit five of his six 3-pointers in the third when the Trail Blazers outscored the Clippers 42-28. Portland was 10 of 20 from 3-point range in the game.

C.J. McCollum added 27 points and Jusuf Nurkic had 20.

Tobias Harris matched Lillard with a career-high 39 points and rookie Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 24 for the Clippers, who have lost four in a row for the first time this season.

**SPURS 123, 76ERS 96**

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Rudy Gay had 21 points and LaMarcus Aldridge and DeMar DeRozan each added 20 as San Antonio defeated Philadelphia.

San Antonio bounced back after squandering a 21-point lead in a loss to Chicago on Saturday night. The Spurs held an opponent under 100 points for the fifth straight game.

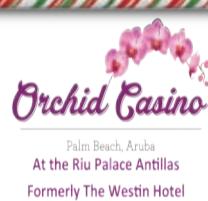
J.J. Redick and Ben Simmons each scored 16 points to lead the 76ers. Joel Embiid was limited to 13 points on 6-for-17 shooting and finished with 11 rebounds.

Aldridge added 10 rebounds and DeRozan had seven assists for the Spurs, who completed a 5-1 homestand.

**THUNDER 121, BULLS 96**

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Paul George scored 16 of his 24 points in the final five minutes of the first half and Oklahoma City rolled past Chicago.

George's outburst came in the last 4:47 of the second quarter as the Thunder outscored the Bulls 23-7 and built a 64-44 lead at the break. He scored just one point in the second half. □



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## Saints' D puts clamps on Newton in 12-9 win over Panthers

By STEVE REED, AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints still have one of the league's top-scoring offenses, but lately it's the defense that's been carrying the NFL's most complete team.

On a night when Brees and the offense couldn't get much going and made some uncharacteristic mistakes, New Orleans put the clamps on Cam Newton and the Carolina Panthers in a 12-9 victory on Monday night, moving the Saints into position to lock up home-field advantage in the NFC playoffs.

"I believe in us, game in and game out, first quarter to fourth quarter," defensive end Cam Jordan said. "If it comes down to a crucial play, I believe in us."

The Saints (12-2) held an opponent to 17 points or fewer for a sixth straight game. They limited Newton to 131 yards passing, sacked him four times and forced two turnovers. Carolina (6-8), which lost its sixth straight, had just 247 yards and 13 first downs. The Panthers' only scores came on a trick play on fourth down and an interception return on a 2-point conversion attempt. "So proud of the defense," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "I thought they were outstanding. It's tough to win a division game on the road and we were able to do that."

Alvin Kamara had 103 yards from scrimmage and a touchdown, and Brees had 203 yards passing for the Saints, who took a one-game lead in the NFC over the Rams. The Saints close the season at home against Pittsburgh and Carolina; the Rams visit Arizona and host San Francisco. Newton struggled throwing



New Orleans Saints' Demario Davis (56) celebrates his sack of Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton, left, in the first half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Dec. 17, 2018. New Orleans Saints' Demario Davis (56) celebrates his sack of Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton, left, in the first half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Dec. 17, 2018.

Associated Press

the ball more than 10 yards downfield because of a lingering sore right shoulder. He said after the game he's unsure what the injury is, but he mentioned his labrum and rotator cuff as possible issues. He has been limited in practice for weeks and doesn't have the zip on the ball he normally has.

So much for his boast that the Panthers were bringing a cup to steal the "juice" from the Saints.

"(Newton) said something along the lines of they brought their own cup, a juice box or something, I don't know what it was," Jordan said. "But I do know that he's got to go back to the refrigerator and pull out a bigger cup."

The Saints swept three games from the Panthers last season and knocked them out of the playoffs, prompting Jordan to send Newton a bottle of red

wine in the offseason, while some other teammates gave him a broom. This loss likely ended Carolina's playoff hopes again.

Newton said his shoulder simply isn't getting better — or worse — and he refused to blame the injury, saying, "I have to be better."

"Our defense played a hell of a game and we have to reward them," Newton said. "We had two turnovers in the red zone and that comes down to execution."

#### TRICK PLAYS

The Panthers struck first after offensive coordinator Norv Turner dug into his bag of tricks.

On a fourth-and-2 from midfield, Christian McCaffrey got a handoff, took a step toward the line, then stepped back and lofted a perfect pass over the middle to tight end Chris Manhertz, who was 15 yards behind the defense. Man-

hertz trotted into the end zone for a 50-yard touchdown and a 7-0 lead. It was McCaffrey's first career pass attempt, although he threw two TD passes while at Stanford. He became the first non-QB to throw a TD pass in Panthers history.

#### APPLE'S PICK

Eli Apple intercepted Newton in the end zone with 10 seconds left in the first half. "I knew they were going to take a shot," Apple said. "They ran a fade route. I just tried to get my head around and make a play on the ball."

#### COSTLY TURNOVERS

The Panthers held the Saints in check for most of the third quarter, but the game changed when Panthers receiver D.J. Moore fumbled on an inside handoff. The Saints pounced, capping an 84-yard drive with a 16-yard TD run by Kamara to make it 12-7 early in the

fourth quarter. The Saints went for 2, but Brees' toss was intercepted by Donte Jackson, who took it back nearly 100 yards.

That wasn't the only time the Saints cost themselves a scoring opportunity. New Orleans was on the verge of taking the lead late in the second quarter, but James Bradberry intercepted Brees' tipped pass and returned it to Saints territory. And New Orleans whiffed on a potential game-sealing touchdown when Tommylee Lewis fumbled near the goal line, leading to a touchback that gave Carolina one last chance to tie the game with 1:44 remaining. But the Panthers couldn't move the ball and turned it over on downs.

#### McCAFFREY SETS MARK

McCaffrey broke DeAngelo Williams' single-season franchise record of 1,636 yards from scrimmage with a rush in the first quarter. He finished with 110 yards rushing and receiving.

#### DUBIOUS STREAK

The loss extended the Panthers' streak of never having posted back-to-back winning seasons since joining the NFL in 1995.

#### OLSEN UPDATE

Panthers tight end Greg Olsen had surgery on his right foot Monday, his second procedure on the foot in the last 16 months. "Surgery went well and I am on my way towards a full recovery," Olsen wrote on Instagram.

#### INJURIES

Saints center Max Unger left the game in the first half after being evaluated for a concussion and did not return. He was replaced by Cameron Tom.

#### UP NEXT

Saints: Host the Steelers on Sunday.

Panthers: Host the Falcons on Sunday. □

# Ibrahimovic re-signs with LA Galaxy as designated player

CARSON, Calif. (AP) — Zlatan Ibrahimovic and the LA Galaxy have put to rest any rumors about his future.

The team announced Tuesday that the Swedish superstar has signed a new contract that will make him one of the club's three designated players. Major League Soccer's designated player rule allows a club to sign up to three players to higher salaries that do not count against the salary cap.

Ibrahimovic, who made \$1.5 million in 2018, was already under contract for next season, but there were some rumors about whether he would return to Europe.

"There were a lot of talks, rumors and whispers, but I never left. I have stayed here and I'm not finished," Ibrahimovic said in a video supplied by the club.

Ibrahimovic was named the MLS Newcomer of the Year after scoring 22 goals



In this April 28, 2018, file photo, LA Galaxy forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic kicks the ball into the goal during the second half of an MLS soccer match against the New York Red Bulls, in Carson, Calif.

and 10 assists in 27 games this season. He was just the third player in league history to record a 20-goal, 10-assist season. The Galaxy were 9-2-4 in matches where he scored a goal.

He was also named to the league's Best XI team and won the league's Goal of the Year award.

The Galaxy surged into playoff contention late in the season, but lost on the

final day of the regular season to miss the postseason. Ibrahimovic joined Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi as the third active player to score 500 goals for club and country with a

goal against Toronto FC on Sept. 15.

"I was told I did good but I was not satisfied about the outcome," Ibrahimovic said. "I know the opponents and the league more. I know my team more. Physically I feel better."

Galaxy general manager Dennis te Kloese, who was named to the post last week, still has to make a decision about a head coach for the upcoming season, which begins in March.

The Galaxy also announced on Tuesday that they have signed midfielder Juninho after acquiring right of first refusal from Chicago in exchange for \$75,000 in general allocation money.

The Brazilian was with the Galaxy from 2010-15 and scored 17 goals in 208 games. He has spent three years with Club Tijuana of Mexico's Liga MX and was on loan for a year with Chicago. □



In this Jan. 26, 2017, file photo, Jason Day, of Australia, left, and Tiger Woods, right, reacts on the fifth hole during the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament, at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego.

Associated Press

## RETURN TO No. 1

Continued from Page 18

He talked that day about how his victory at Torrey in 2015 propelled him to his best season.

"I'm hoping to do much of the same this year," Day said.

He won again in early May, hitting a towering 7-iron that bounced off the pin on the treacherous par-3 17th at Quail Hollow that sent him to a two-shot victory in the Wells Fargo Championship.

The end of the year

brought a sobering reality: Day started at No. 13 in the world, won twice, and finished at No. 14.

"I wasn't as consistent as I should have been," Day said. "If you have a couple of wins, finish with around 10 to 12 top 10s, typically you're in the top-five region. That's why I was disappointed about this year, even though I had two wins."

There's one other part of the equation.

Along with adding two PGA

Tour victories, he and wife Ellie added a third child. A son, Arrow, was born in November.

Dash was 3 when he ran onto the green at Whistling Straits in 2015 after his father won the PGA Championship, and Ellie was six months pregnant with Lucy. The family is growing and Day invariably has felt a tug.

He has talked about his constant battle with desire and motivation, and now there is another challenge. "It takes desire, but it takes balance in life," Day said.

"Right now, I'm at a different stage in my life just having my third child. It's hard. Tiger made it look so easy over the years. Being No. 1 for 13 years is very impressive, but to be able to be a dominant player, that's the biggest thing. I wanted to be one of those guys."

Winning takes care of everything. Woods used to talk about that when he was getting back to No. 1 after a 2½-year absence.

Day won twice and dropped a spot in the ranking. Part of that is a testa-

ment to the depth on the PGA Tour, and how hard it is to win.

Bryson DeChambeau went from No. 99 to No. 5 on the strength of four wins. Woods started at No. 656 and winds up at No. 13. In those cases, they were low enough to make up ground in a hurry. For players just outside the top 10, making up ground requires winning and having a steady diet of chances. Day had only the two wins. He never reached the 18th hole with an opportunity to win at any other tournament.

What bothered him more was his performance in the majors. His best finish in the last two years was a tie for ninth in the 2017 PGA Championship.

"When you don't play well in the majors, when you don't finish well in the FedEx Cup, that's disappointing to me," he said. "I always gear myself around playing well in the majors, and the last couple of years have been pretty hard."

He starts up again in two weeks at Kapalua for the Sentry Tournament

of Champions, which he missed last year. He wants to start well again and make up ground. The big test will be contending in a major for the first time since his runner-up finish in the 2016 PGA Championship at Baltusrol.

More than anything, he wants to see if he can dedicate himself to a big year on the course and at home. "You have to learn balance," he said. "If you want to get to No. 1 in the world, you have to be super selfish. When that happens, you're sacrificing family, you're sacrificing friends, you're sacrificing everything else other than golf." He chuckled and said, "I wouldn't mind seeing the divorce rate on No. 1 players in the world."

Day has known only one way to play his best golf — with a relentless, methodical work ethic. Now he wants to find his path with a wife and three kids along for the ride.

Even if that means giving up a few hours of sleep. "I don't sleep well, anyway," he said. □

## Mayweather opponent looks for real fight not entertainment

By YURI KAGEYAMA  
Associated Press

MATSUDO, Japan (AP) —

To Floyd Mayweather, his three-round match on New Year's Eve in Japan is for entertainment only.

To opponent Tenshin Nasukawa, the "exhibition" is as serious as a kick to the head.

Which is what he wishes he could do to Mayweather. But the rules of their match prohibit the unheralded kickboxer from kicking. So he's taken a crash course in boxing. Among his advisers was three-weight world champion Jorge Linares.

"I can change the world with my fist," Nasukawa said in his quiet voice on Tuesday after a demonstration workout at his fam-

ily's Teppen Gym in the Tokyo suburb of Matsudo. Except, he really can't change the world. There will be no judges and no official result.

When 20-year-old Nasukawa's people were last month touting a real bout, the 41-year-old Mayweather walked away. He hasn't fought since beating Conor McGregor more than a year ago for his 50th win from 50 fights. He returned to this matchup only after getting the rules clarified to make his first bout in Japan more about "entertainment."

The Rizin Fighting Federation organizers are even willing to placate Mayweather by undertaking the weigh-in in his hotel

room.

Despite everything, VIP seats are going for 100,000 yen (\$1,000) each at Saitama Super Arena, on the northern outskirts of Tokyo. There's little Nasukawa has in common with Mayweather, apart from both being unbeaten. Nasukawa is undefeated as a kickboxer at 27-0 and undefeated in mixed martial arts at 4-0.

He said he never was much of a Mayweather fan, usually cheering for his opponents, such as Manny Pacquiao. And when he met him in person, Nasukawa said he was a little disappointed that Mayweather wasn't as charismatic as he thought he was.

"I sensed no aura about



Japanese kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa warms up at his gym in Matsudo, northwest of Tokyo Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018. Nasukawa is scheduled to face Floyd Mayweather Jr. in a three-round exhibition boxing bout in Japan on New Year's Eve.

Associated Press

him," he said.

"He says such provocative stuff I feel like kicking him."

Nasukawa said he can't allow the taller and heavier Mayweather to land a single punch in their three rounds. He plans to use his kickboxing nous to avoid getting hit.

"He is the best so I can't let my guard down. I'm sure his punches are fast but I'm sure I can see them."

"I feel excited, although some days I still feel afraid," Nasukawa added. "But when the day comes, I want to fight with confidence." □

## Salt Lake City bids for 2nd Olympics in changed climate

By BRADY McCOMBS  
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) —

When Salt Lake City pursued the Winter Olympics more than two decades ago, competition was so fierce that lavishing International Olympic Committee members with gifts and favors seemed commonplace. Salt Lake City got caught in a bribery scandal that nearly derailed the plans for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Two decades later, the script has flipped.

The IOC is struggling to find cities willing to take on the financial and societal burden of hosting the Winter Olympics. The race to host the 2026 Winter Olympics is down to just two cities after several dropped out over a lack of local support. Beijing got the 2022 Winter Olympics by attrition, winning by four votes over Almaty, Kazakhstan, after a half-dozen European bidders dropped out, discouraged by soaring costs and taxpayer backlash.

That's why a city that, for a time, stood out as a pariah in the Olympic world is a serious contender again, this time for the 2030 Winter

Games — decades sooner than anyone expected and despite that bid scandal.

Utah's capital city is among an increasingly small group of cities worldwide that has the venues needed for winter sports and the willingness to take on the costly task of hosting Olympics that have lost some of their cache. The U.S. Olympic Committee last week chose Salt Lake City over Denver as a future bid city. The IOC will choose a 2030 host by 2023 at the latest.

Jules Boykoff, a Pacific University professor who has written widely on the Olympics, said the bribery scandal is "a pretty big stain on the history of the games."

"But these days, the International Olympic Committee is not in a position to be overly picky," Boykoff said. The scandal broke in 1998, three years after Salt Lake City was chosen over cities in Canada, Sweden and Switzerland. Salt Lake's bid committee doled out \$1 million in cash, scholarships, medical care, gifts and other favors to IOC members and their families. That included ski trips, NBA tickets, plastic surgery,



Salt Lake City Council Chairwoman Erin Mendenhall, Fraser Bullock, chief operating officer of the 2002 Winter Games, Jeff Robbins, president and CEO of the Utah Sports Commission, Salt Lake City Mayor Jackie Biskupski, Gov. Gary Herbert, USA Olympic speed skater Catherine Rainey-Norman and Salt Lake County Councilman Jim Bradley raise their arms in celebration after the USOC choose Salt Lake over Denver to bid on behalf of the U.S. for future Winter Games, Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

knee replacements, violins and housing and salary for children of IOC members, according to report by an ethics panel.

It led to the expulsion of six IOC members, the resignation of four others, severe warnings for several others though none faced criminal charges. U.S. prosecutors brought criminal charges against two Salt Lake bid leaders, but both men were acquitted by a

judge halfway through a federal trial.

The IOC brought in outside experts to help reshape the organization. The IOC approved a 50-point reform package that included a ban on member visits to bid cities, creation of an independent ethics committee and term limits.

Olympic historian David Wallechinsky said Salt Lake City's current bid officials will have to talk about the

scandal, but he doesn't think it will impact their candidacy. The Salt Lake City bribery scandal capped off decades of cities trying to win the favor of IOC board members behind the scenes.

"They learned from the corruption of other cities that beat them before," Wallechinsky said. "It's not like they invented the corruption . . . they just got caught." □

# U.S. surgeon general warns of teen risks from e-cigarettes

By MATTHEW PERRONE  
AP Health Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The government's top doctor is taking aim at the best-selling electronic cigarette brand in the U.S., urging swift action to prevent Juul and similar vaping brands from addicting millions of teenagers.

In an advisory Tuesday, Surgeon General Jerome Adams said parents, teachers, health professionals and government officials must take "aggressive steps" to keep children from using e-cigarettes. Federal law bars the sale of e-cigarettes to those under 18.

For young people, "nicotine is dangerous and it can have negative health effects," Adams said in an interview. "It can impact learning, attention and memory, and it can prime the youth brain for addiction."

Federal officials are scram-



In this April 10, 2018, file photo, a high school principal displays vaping devices that were confiscated from students in such places as restrooms or hallways at the school in Massachusetts.

Associated Press

bling to reverse a recent explosion in teen vaping that public health officials fear could undermine decades of declines in tobacco use. An estimated 3.6 million U.S. teens are now using e-cigarettes, representing 1 in 5 high school students and 1 in 20 middle schoolers, according to the latest federal figures.

Separate survey results re-

leased Monday showed twice as many high school students used e-cigarettes this year compared to last year. E-cigarettes and other vaping devices have been sold in the U.S. since 2007, growing into a \$6.6 billion business. Most devices heat a flavored nicotine solution into an inhalable vapor. They have been pitched

to adult smokers as a less-harmful alternative to cigarettes, though there's been little research on the long-term health effects or on whether they help people quit. Even more worrisome, a growing body of research suggests that teens who vape are more likely to try regular cigarettes.

Adams singled out Silicon Valley startup Juul. The company leapfrogged over its larger competitors with online promotions portraying their small device as the latest high-tech gadget for hip, attractive young people. Analysts now estimate the company controls more than 75 percent of the U.S. e-cigarette market.

The surgeon general's advisory notes that each Juul cartridge, or pod, contains as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes. Additionally, Adams states that Juul's liquid nicotine mixture is spe-

cially formulated to give a smoother, more potent nicotine buzz. That effect poses special risks for young people, Adams says.

"We do know that these newer products, such as Juul, can promote dependence in just a few uses," Adams said.

Juul said in a statement that it shares the surgeon general's goal: "We are committed to preventing youth access of Juul products."

Last month, San Francisco-based Juul shut down its Facebook and Instagram accounts and halted in-store sales of its flavored pods. The flavors remain available via age-restricted online sales. That voluntary action came days before the Food and Drug Administration proposed industrywide restrictions on online and convenience store sales of e-cigarettes to deter use by kids. □



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

## Health and Beauty Sleep

In the middle of the Holiday season, there is always so much activity and personal business to attend to that it is easy to forget what we are really celebrating. Over the years and by many different beliefs the holiday season which includes among it, the winter solstice on the Dec. 21st, Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light, Hanukkah, and Christmas, has been celebrated in many ways. However, the worldwide message is about bringing light and hope, from darkness and ignorance. This is reflected today in our elaborate and bright holiday trimmings.

An unknown writer explains our feeling about light: "An empty lantern provides no light. Self-care is the fuel that allows your light to shine brightly."

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Thank you, our readers, colleagues, patients, friends and fans for your confidence in our ability to serve you. We wish you all a safe, healthy Holiday Season and may the Healing Spirit Bless you in the coming New Year, allowing your light to shine bright.

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## Gift Guide: Some tech gadgets that actually fill a real need

By ANICK JESDANUN

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Sometimes you can sense that tech products are striving to solve problems that are manufactured by their manufacturers. Smartwatches, for instance, have long been a nifty idea — but they've offered few tangible benefits for anyone but health and fitness enthusiasts.

That's why it's notable when a particular gadget finally breaks through. The latest Apple Watch, for instance, has heart-monitoring features that will appeal to those who aren't active. Likewise, an Amazon digital video recorder makes cable cord-cutting far more practical.

Others remain hanging in not-quite-there limbo. A miniature smartphone from the revived brand Palm has the germ of a good idea, though it can still leave you feeling perplexed.

If you're still considering tech gifts in your last-minute holiday shopping, bear these items in mind. And when looking at other products, ask yourself if they're really ready for prime time or destined to gather dust somewhere.

### APPLE'S SMARTWATCH

The newest features in the Series 4 Apple Watch are actually anything but flashy. But they could save lives.

With a built-in EKG feature, you can share detailed heart readings with your doctor without visiting a clinic. Doctors get a PDF file showing the peaks and valleys of your heart rhythm, just as they would with an EKG on paper.

Apple's EKG sensors take measurements only on your wrist and finger, while EKG machines in clinics typically measure 12 points. That means the watch can't detect heart attacks and other conditions. But Apple says it can provide early detection of atrial fibrillation, an irregular heart rhythm that increases the risk of stroke and heart failure. The company tested the watch against standard EKGs to win U.S. regu-



In this Sept. 21, 2018, file photo customers look at new Apple watches including the Series 4 at an Apple store in New York.

Associated Press

latory clearance.

The new watch can also tell if you take a hard fall — and it will call 911 if you can't get up. If someone on your gift list is elderly, you might enjoy greater peace of mind.

The Series 4 watch starts at \$399 and requires an iPhone. The EKG feature is for U.S. customers only.

### AMAZON'S DVR

DVRs have lost their allure in the streaming age, when entire TV seasons drop at once on Netflix. Still, some broadcast shows aren't available for streaming at all, or without a significant delay. If you've dropped cable TV service, you can still watch those shows for free with an old-fashioned TV antenna — but then you're back to watching only when they air.

Enter Amazon's Fire TV Recast DVR. It will record over-the-air programs and let you watch on your TV, Amazon's Echo Show or an app on the go.

You need to buy an antenna, which could be the rabbit-ear kind or an indoor one you stick on your window. Thanks to Wi-Fi, the Recast can be near that window rather than your TV.

While the Recast can technically work with just a phone app or the Echo Show, you need a separate Fire TV streaming de-

vice (\$40 and up) for full functionality. Among the limitations: You can't delete shows through the app. The Recast itself is \$230 for 75 hours of storage and two simultaneous recordings, \$280 for double the storage and simultaneous recordings.

TiVo, the gold standard in DVRs, has easier ways to skip commercials and more flexible options to record. But TiVo also gets expensive. A model aimed at cord-cutters, the Bolt OTA, costs \$250 — but then you have to pay either a recurring fee of at least \$70 a year or another \$250 a single time to get the program guide. Recast doesn't carry ongoing fees.

Amazon collects data on the shows you watch to personalize and improve its services. If you find that creepy, Recast won't be for you.

### PALM'S CONNECTED COMPANION

Before smartphones, there was Palm and its hand-held digital assistants, which offered emails, calendars, notepads and many of the functions seen in apps today. Under new owners, Palm is back with a mini smartphone designed, it says, to let you leave your bigger phone at home and enjoy the moment — without cutting yourself off completely.

The new phone, simply called Palm, is about the size of a credit card, but nearly as thick as a regular phone. It's meant as a stop-gap for when your main iPhone or Android phone isn't with you, so battery and speeds are just good enough. It's great for the essentials, such as maps, Yelp lookups or texts to coordinate meetups with friends. The water-resistant phone fits in running shorts during workouts.

The Palm is premised on the idea that you can — or

need to — leave your main phone behind.

The company says you can rely on just the Palm as you attend a kid's soccer game or meet friends at a bar. You're still connected, on your terms, to pay someone back with Venmo or request a ride on Lyft. Verizon, the exclusive seller of this phone in the U.S., syncs phone numbers, so calls and texts to your main phone automatically reaches this mini phone. □



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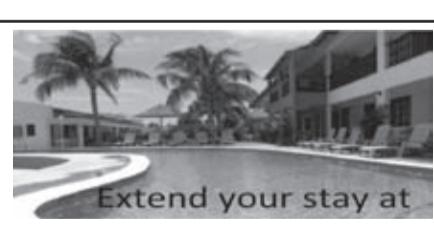
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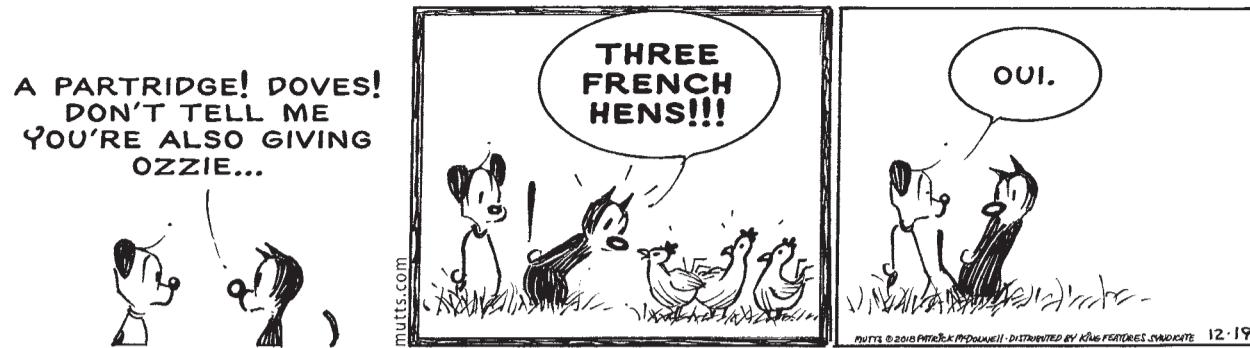


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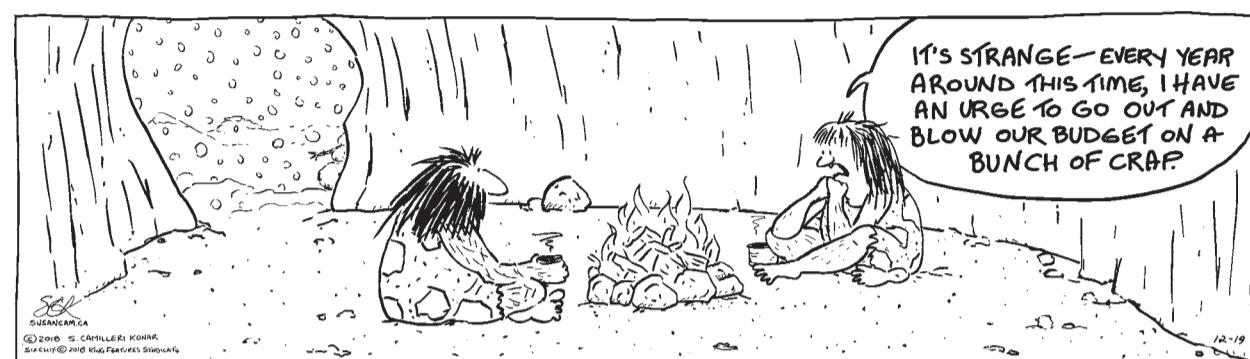
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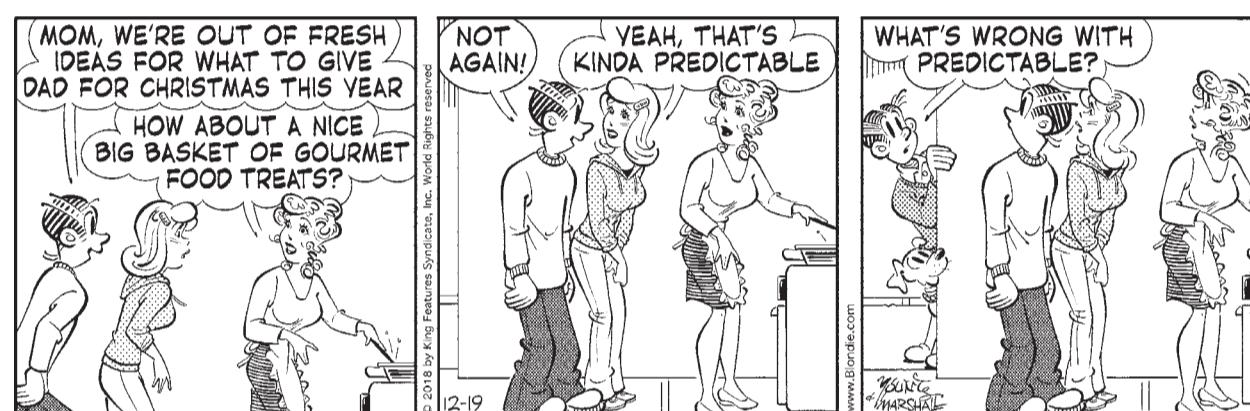
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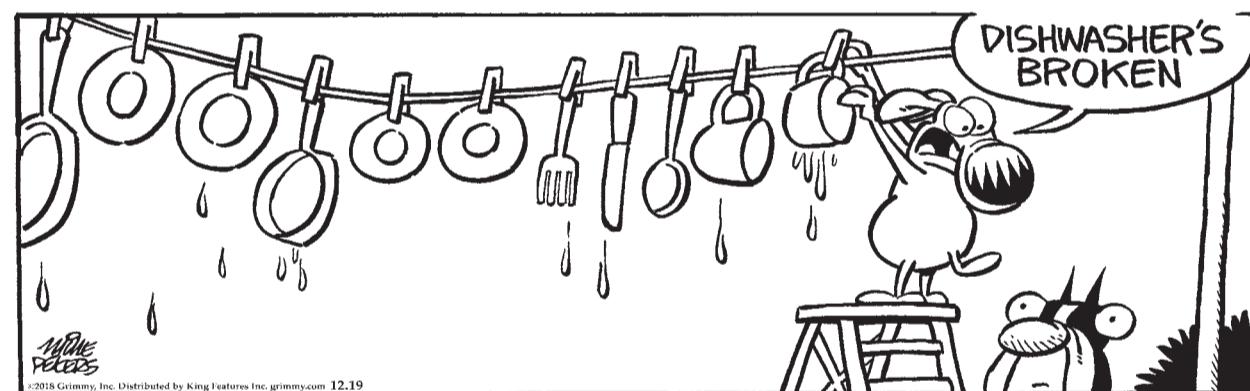


## **Blondie**



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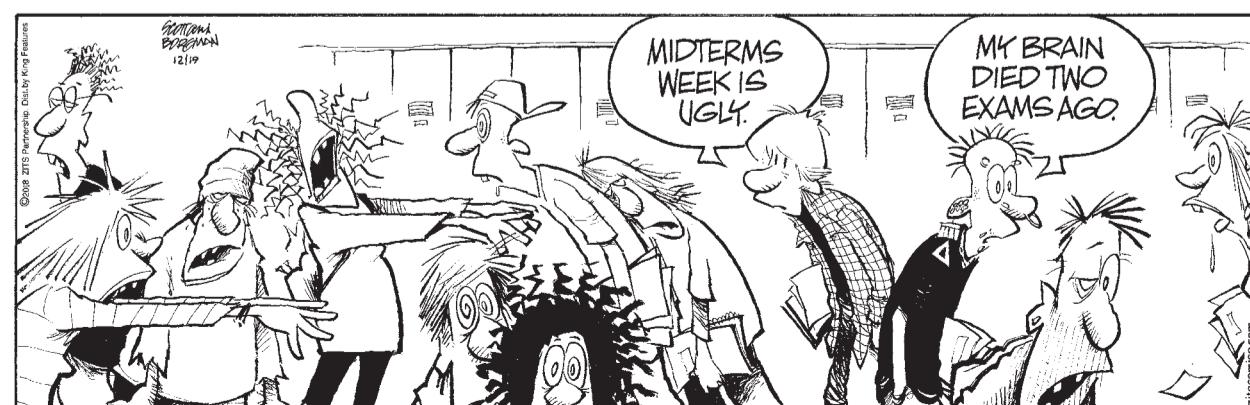
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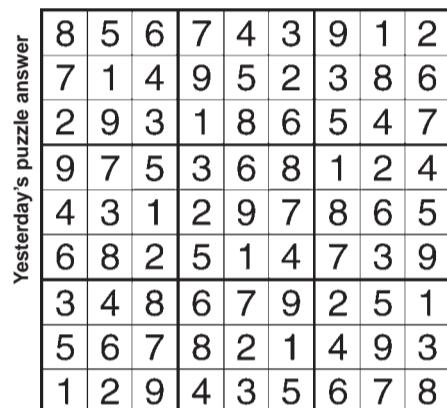
## Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★★★

12/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.



ss

- 1 " \_\_ walked out in the streets of Laredo..."
- 4 Fight off
- 9 Slightly open
- 13 Gives permission to
- 15 Banishment
- 16 Mexican wolf
- 17 Wedding veil fabric
- 18 Juvenile delinquents
- 19 Suspenders alternative
- 20 Outrageously bold
- 22 Peepers
- 23 Rump
- 24 In one \_\_ and out the other
- 26 Maximum
- 29 Canadian province
- 34 Unskilled laborers
- 35 Bundled hay

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/19/18

## Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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61 Annoys	28 Bullwinkle, for	All rights reserved.	
62 Wise man	one	39 Family members	48 Russian ruler
63 Take a nap	29 Female animals	41 Floral wire	of old
64 Chris with a	30 Stein drinks	service	49 Actress Lang
racket	31 Give one's views	42 Late singer	50 Dollar bills
65 Reuben bread	32 Nobleman	Elliot	52 UCLA or USC
	33 Valuable item	44 Most modern	53 Stack
<b>DOWN</b>	35 Actor Max __ Jr.	45 Most immaculate	54 Letter opener
1 TV's " __ in the	38 Under __;	47 Slightly more	55 Jittery
Family"	stressed out	than a yard	59 Obscene

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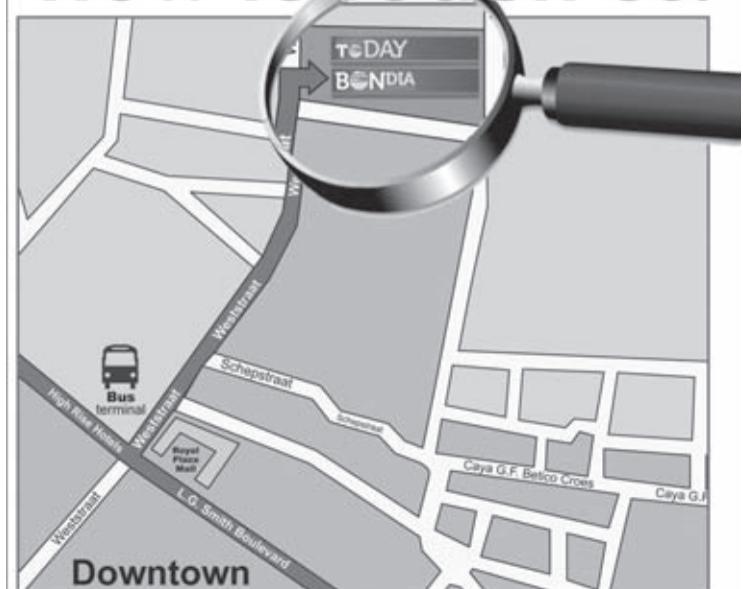
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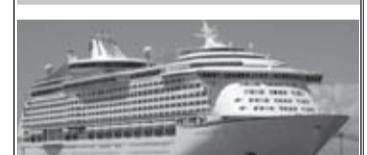
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# Trump signs order to create U.S. Space Command

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Donald Trump launched the Pentagon's new Space Command Tuesday, an effort to better organize and advance the military's vast operations in space that could cost as much as \$800 million over the next five years.

Trump signed a one-page memorandum Tuesday authorizing the Defense Department to create the new command. Speaking at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, Vice President Mike Pence said, "a new era of American national security in space begins today."

The goal is to set up a command to oversee and organize space operations, accelerate technical advances and find more effective ways to defend U.S. assets in space, including the vast constellations of satellites that American forces rely on for navigation, communications and surveillance. The move comes amid growing concerns that China and Russia are working on ways to disrupt, disable or even destroy U.S. satellites.

The new order is separate from the president's much touted goal of creating a "Space Force" as an independent armed service branch, but is considered a first step in that direction. The memo provides little detail on what will be a long and complicated process as the Defense De-



In this Dec. 3, 2018, file photo, In this photo provided by the U.S. Air Force, a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, carrying the Spaceflight SSO-A: SmallSat Express, launches from Space Launch Complex-4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

Associated Press

partment begins to pull together various space units from across the military services into a more coordinated, independent organization.

According to one U.S. official, the command would pull about 600 staff from existing military space offices, and then add at least another 1,000 over the coming years. The roughly \$800 million would mainly cover the additional staff. The costs for the existing staff would just transfer to the new command, but that total was not immediately available.

The official spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations not yet announced.

Army Lt. Col. Joe Buccino, spokesman for Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, said that establishing Space Command is "a critical step in accelerating our space capabilities and posture to defend our vital national interests and deter our adversaries. This combatant command will lead space operations and develop space warfighting doctrine, tactics, and techniques."

He added that the Pentagon will continue to develop a legislative proposal to

meet the president's vision for a space force.

The first steps next year will be to nominate top leaders for Space Command, including a four-star general and a deputy. The command would likely at least begin to take form in Colorado, where the current Joint Functional Component Command for Space is already located. But there has been no final decision on a location for the new command.

Funding for the command will be included in the budget for fiscal year 2020, which will be unveiled in February.

Trump's order accelerates what has been a decades-long effort to reorganize and improve the military's technological advances in space, which at times has gotten less attention as the Air Force has focused on warplanes and other combat priorities.

The military's role in space has been under scrutiny because the United States is increasingly reliant on orbiting satellites that are difficult to protect. Satellites provide communications, navigation, intelligence and other services vital to the military and the national economy.

Over the past year, the issue gained urgency amid growing competition and threats from adversary nations.

U.S. intelligence agencies reported earlier this year that Russia and China were pursuing "nondestructive

and destructive" anti-satellite weapons for use during a future war. And there are growing worries about cyberattacks that could target satellite technology, potentially leaving troops in combat without electronic communications or navigation abilities.

A U.S. Space Command existed from 1985 to 2002, but was disbanded in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks so that U.S. Northern Command could be established, focusing on defense of the homeland.

Although Space Command went away, its functions remained and were absorbed by U.S. Strategic Command. The Air Force retained its lead role in space through Air Force Space Command. That existing space command will be a key component of the new joint entity, raising space to the same status as other headquarters such as U.S. Cyber Command, Special Operations Command or Strategic Command.

The new Space Command will also pull from existing units in the other services, such as the Army Space and Missile Command and the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command.

Officials said the process of breaking away parts of other organizations and molding them all into a new command will be done carefully, to ensure it's done correctly without jeopardizing any ongoing operations or activities. □

## Huge barrier isn't trapping plastic waste in Pacific Ocean

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A floating device sent to corral a swirling island of trash between California and Hawaii has not swept up

any plastic waste — but the young innovator behind the project said Monday that a fix was in the works. Boyan Slat, 24, who

launched the Pacific Ocean cleanup project, said the speed of the solar-powered barrier isn't allowing it to hold on to the plastic it catches.

"Sometimes the system actually moves slightly slower than the plastic, which of course you don't want because then you have a chance of losing the plastic again," Slat said in an interview with The Associated Press.

A crew of engineers will reach the U-shaped boom

Tuesday and will work for the next few weeks to widen its span so that it catches more wind and waves to help it go faster, he said.

A ship towed the 2,000-foot-long (600-meter-long) barrier in September from San Francisco to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch — an island of trash twice the size of Texas. It has been in place since the end of October, Slat said.

The plastic barrier with a tapered 10-foot-deep (3-meter-deep) screen is intend-

ed to act like a coastline, trapping some of the 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic that scientists estimate are swirling in the patch while allowing marine life to safely swim beneath it.

Fitted with solar-powered lights, cameras, sensors and satellite antennas, the device intends to communicate its position at all times, allowing a support vessel to fish out the collected plastic every few months and transport it to dry land for recycling. □

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## Book reflects on Rock Hudson's stardom, closeted love life

By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL  
Associated Press

"All That Heaven Allows: A Biography of Rock Hudson" (Harper), by Mark Griffin. Had Rock Hudson not died of AIDS in 1985, he might be best remembered as the most successful of the postwar male stars who got into the movies solely on their looks. He remained on the screen for decades because of a likability that can't be learned or manufactured.

Instead, Hudson became the first celebrity to acknowledge that he suffered from the mysterious disease that seemed to target gay men. The potentially career-ending sexual secret he had protected was all but confirmed in the last months of his life.

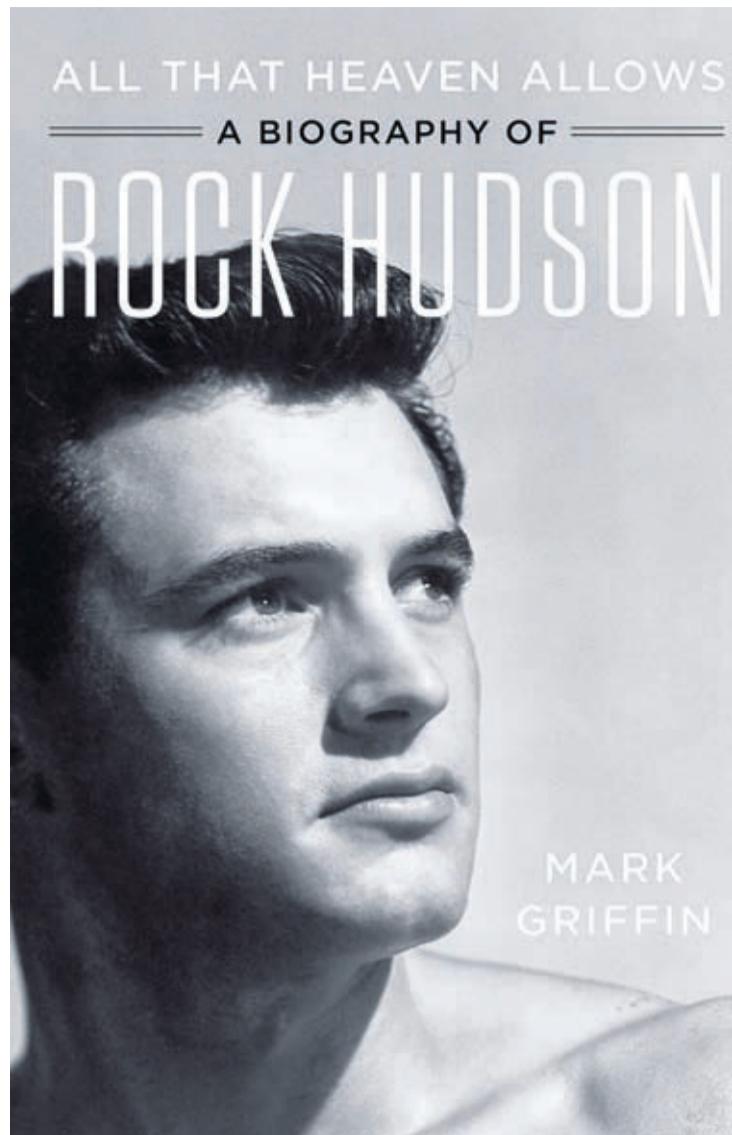
Mark Griffin's perceptive and sympathetic biography "All That Heaven Allows" gives Hudson, both the movie star and the man, the kind of reassessment only time can allow. He improved as an actor yet never lost the fear that moviegoers would discover that their ideal leading man was only playing a role.

While he needed time and experience to hone his craft, pretending for the cameras came easy to handsome, Illinois-born Roy Fitzgerald. Escaping reality

at the Winnetka movie theater was a must for the boy with an overprotective and domineering mother, a father who walked out on the family, and a stepfather who beat him. Childhood friends remembered Roy for many of the same qualities that made him a favorite with fellow actors and film crews: diligence, generosity, easygoing charm and fun-loving spirit.

Living a closeted life and trying to make it as an actor only added to his insecurities. With his new name, Hudson appeared in more than two dozen films under contract to Universal between 1948 and 1954. Eager to learn, he blossomed under the direction of Douglas Sirk, whose romantic tearjerkers "Magnificent Obsession" (1954) and "All That Heaven Allows" (1955) turned Hudson into a heartthrob at 30.

With the hugely successful epic "Giant" (1956), Hudson was an Oscar-nominated actor and soon Hollywood's most popular star. Routine dramas followed until 1959's "Pillow Talk" with Doris Day revealed Hudson's knack for light comedy. He remained an audience favorite for several more years despite undistinguished movies. Imagine what might have been had



This cover image released by Harper shows "All That Heaven Allows: A Biography of Rock Hudson," by Mark Griffin.

Associated Press

Universal followed through on its original plan to cast Hudson as lawyer Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mockingbird."

All the while Hudson lived

and loved on the down-low. A sham marriage around the time of "Giant" quelled the gossip for a time. Publicly, he played along with the fan maga-

zine image of the happy if lonely bachelor trying to find the right woman when he was actually trying to find the right man. Promiscuity as well as meaningful relationships marked his private life. Had Hudson been a straight star, he may have been married several times and envied as a ladies' man. Griffin suggests that Hudson's better performances — the paranoia classic "Seconds" (1966) being one example — came with roles in which he could identify with a character's internal turmoil. Wisely, the writer explores Hudson's films and TV shows without trying to make them more than what they were — generally average entertainments punctuated by occasional hits and many, many misses. (TV's "McMillan & Wife" resuscitated his flagging career in the 1970s.) Like most other aging stars, Hudson struggled to find good roles as the wrinkles appeared. Alcohol and cigarettes took a toll on his health long before the AIDS diagnosis.

Given his generation's intense homophobia and the 1950s communist witch hunt that ruined so many careers, it's understandable that Hudson didn't want to risk everything as a gay-rights pioneer. □

## Actress and director Penny Marshall dies at age 75

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Penny Marshall, who starred in "Laverne & Shirley" before becoming one of the top-grossing female directors in Hollywood, has died. She was 75.

Marshall's publicist, Michelle Bega, said Marshall died in her Los Angeles home on Monday due to complications from diabetes. "Our family is heartbroken," the Marshall family said in a statement.

Marshall starred as Laverne DeFazio, the Milwaukee brewery worker, alongside Cindy Williams in the hit ABC comedy "Laverne & Shirley." The series, which



In this Feb. 15, 2015 file photo, actress and director Penny Marshall attends the SNL 40th Anniversary Special in New York.

Associated Press

aired from 1976 to 1983, was among the biggest hits of its era.

It also gave Marshall her start as a filmmaker. She directed several episodes of

"Laverne & Shirley" before making her feature film directorial debut in "Jumpin' Jack Flash," the 1986 comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg.

Her next film made Marshall the first woman to direct a film that grossed more than \$100 million. Her 1988 hit comedy "Big," starring Tom Hanks, was about a 12-year-old boy who wakes up in the body of a 30-year-old New York City man. The film earned Hanks an Oscar nomination.

Marshall reteamed with Hanks for "A League of Their Own," the 1992 comedy about the women's professional baseball league begun during World War II.

That, too, crossed \$100 million, making \$107.5 million domestically.

A Bronx native, Marshall became a dedicated Los Angeles Lakers fan, and a courtside regular. Her brother Garry Marshall, who died in 2016, was also one of Hollywood's top comedy directors. Penny Marshall was married to Michael Henry for two years in the 1960s and to the director Rob Reiner from 1971-1981. Their daughter Tracy Reiner is an actress; one of her first roles was a brief appearance in her mother's "Jumpin' Jack Flash." Marshall is also survived by her older sister, Ronny, and three grandchildren. □

# 'Transformers' gets a great savior in 'Bumblebee'

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

The "Transformers" movie universe has lately been leaky and rusted out. It's become shorthand for bad blockbuster moviemaking — male-driven, mindless spectacles with sophomoric humor. How can it be saved? Just hand the keys over to some talented women.

"Bumblebee," the sixth film in the series, is a stand-alone origin story written with disarming skill by Christina Hodson and starring the gifted Hailee Steinfeld. It's a charming tale of a girl and her adorable car-robot, flipping the script on the tired, bloated franchise. While hard-core fanboys may complain it's too soft, this film may turn out to be the perfect way to save "Transformers." Could Bumblebee rescue Optimus Prime this time?

"Bumblebee" is set outside San Francisco in 1987, where the loyal B-127 Autobot has been sent to protect Earth and prepare the groundwork for the franchise (He'll befriend Shia



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Hailee Steinfeld as Charlie and Bumblebee in a scene from "Bumblebee."

Associated Press

LaBeouf at the start of the first film.) Badly hurt while battling two evil tracking Decepticons, he loses his voice and memories. Then he disguises himself as a vintage Volkswagen Bug and waits for deliverance in a salvage yard (not unlike the entire "Transformers" universe). He's discovered by goth-y misfit Charlie Watson (Steinfeld), who is fond of car repair, Motorhead T-shirts

and listening to The Smiths. She is still mourning her dead dad and feels generally unheard. For her 18th birthday, Charlie drives off with the junked VW that has a whole bunch of secret options.

Despite discovering that the car is, in fact, an alien, she feels a kinship to this mute metal giant with expressive eyes, calling him Bumblebee. He, too, is unheard, but learns to com-

municate using word snippets he hears on the radio. She warns that bad guys are sure to come and take him away, but she will protect him. "People can be terrible about things they don't understand," she tells him. Thus starts a sort of "E.T." for 2018, in which Charlie and Bumblebee outfox another pair of Decepticons, the entire U.S. Army (led by a mechanical John Cena)

and her distracted mom and stepdad. If the film seems to have that kid-sized, wistful '80s Steven Spielberg feel, it might be because Spielberg serves as an executive producer. (Franchise helmer Michael Bay has been exiled from the director's chair to the executive suite.)

Hodson is the first woman to originate and write a film in the \$4.3-billion "Transformers" franchise and she proves extremely capable of blending loud action with human pathos, not to mention tart with sweet, though she gets dangerously close to maudlin when it comes to Charlie's dad. "I can't lose you, too," the young woman tells the yellow robot. Steinfeld nails teen alienation but also can turn on empathy beautifully and has a winning cockiness. Plus, she sings the movie's signature song (Talk about a transformer). Hodson and director Travis Knight ("Kubo and the Two Strings") take full advantage of the film's late-1980s setting to give us visual and audio jokes. □

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MON-THU 7:50  
FRI 7:50 | 10:45  
SAT 1:00 | 7:50 | 10:45  
SUN 1:00 | 7:50

**CXC**  
MON-FRI 3:00 | 10 | 9:05  
SAT-SUN 3:15 | 3:30 | 10 | 9:05

**ONCE UPON A DEADPOOL**  
RYAN REYNOLDS | JOSH BROLIN  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **PG-13**  
MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:40  
SAT-SUN 1:45 | 4:10 | 6:40

**SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE**  
JAKE JOHNSON | HAILEE STEINFELD  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **PG**  
MON-FRI 4:15 | 6:45  
SAT-SUN 1:50 | 4:15 | 6:45  
SPANISH  
SAT-SUN 1:00

**MORTAL ENGINES**  
HERA HILMAR | HUGO WEAVING  
MON-SUN 9:10

**THE GRINCH**  
BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH | CAMERON SEELY  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **PG**  
MON-FRI 6:05 | 8:45  
SAT 3:25 | 6:05 | 8:45 | 11:25  
SUN 3:25 | 6:05 | 8:45

**CREED 2**  
MICHAEL B. JORDAN | SYLVESTER STALLONE  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **PG-13**  
MON-THU & SUN 8:10  
FRI-SAT 8:10 | 10:55

**THE POSSESSION OF HANNAH GRACE**  
SHAY MITCHELL | GREY DAMON  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **R**  
MON-FRI 5:45  
SAT-SUN 1:00 | 3:20 | 5:45

**THE GRINCH**  
BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH | CAMERON SEELY  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **PG**  
MON-SUN 3:30 | 5:30

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## 1947 best-picture Oscar sells for nearly \$500,000 at auction



This undated file image provided by Profiles in History shows the best picture Academy Award for "Gentleman's Agreement."

Associated Press

Associated Press  
LOS ANGELES (AP) — One Academy Award trophy sold for nearly \$500,000 and the second for well

over \$200,000 in a rare auction of Oscars that ended Friday in Los Angeles.

A best-picture Oscar for "Gentleman's Agreement," the 1947 film starring Gregory Peck that took on anti-Semitism, sold for \$492,000. A best picture statuette for 1935's "Mutiny on the Bounty" fetched \$240,000.

Both were outpaced by an archive of papers on the origin and development of "The Wizard of Oz" that brought in \$1.2 million.

Auction house Profiles in History announced the results after four days of bidding on Hollywood memorabilia that brought in more than \$8 million in total.

Other items sold include a TIE fighter helmet from the original "Star Wars" that went for \$240,000, a Phaser pistol from the original "Star Trek" TV series that fetched

\$192,000, a hover board Marty McFly rode in "Back to the Future II" that sold for \$102,000, and a golden ticket from "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" that brought in \$48,000. The "Mutiny on the Bounty" Oscar price came close to auction-house projections, but the "Gentleman's Agreement" statuette brought in more than twice what was expected, for reasons that are not clear. The buyers of both Oscars and "The Wizard of Oz" document chose to remain anonymous.

Auctions of Oscar statuettes are very uncommon because winners from 1951 onward have had to agree that they or their heirs must offer it back to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for \$1 before selling it elsewhere. □

# Coens stake their claim to the Western in 'Buster Scruggs'

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — No location is more central to the iconography of the Western than Monument Valley. Its majestic sandstone buttes, a revolving backdrop for John Ford, have been the setting for countless stagecoach chases and John Wayne passages. And thanks to the Coen brothers' "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs," this hallowed ground at the Utah-Arizona line is also now home to Tim Blake Nelson, as the all-white-clad "San Saba songbird" Buster Scruggs, strumming his guitar on a horse and singing, with twang and gusto, like a slightly deranged Roy Rogers.

It's the opening salvo in a six-part anthology film from the Coens that corrals a stampede of Western archetypes and tropes only to invert, distort and deliriously amplify them. But it's also just the start.

Soon after Buster's hokey song, "Cool Water," the body count accumulates and the Roy Rogers-sheen rapidly retreats for far crueler twists and tales of frontier justice across a wanton Wild West, from a tireless prospector played by Tom Waits to a westward traveling wagon train with a dog problem.

The Coens have dabbled in Westerns — think of their sarsaparilla-sipping narrator (Sam Elliott) in "Big Lebowski." But both "No Country for Old Men," from the Cormac McCarthy novel, and "True Grit," from Charles Portis, were foremost about faithfully adapting the books. For the first time, really, the Coens have gone West. Even it was a little accidental.

"We were writing these short movies without any expectation of making them. They were just kind of for fun. They were exercises. They'd go in a drawer," Joel Coen says in a recent phone interview. "At a certain point, we realized that these particular ones were all Westerns. Because they're generically related, maybe they could be gathered in some sort of



This image released by Netflix shows Tim Blake Nelson as Buster Scruggs in a scene from "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs," a film by Joel and Ethan Coen.

Associated Press

anthology. That was the first three or four of them, anyway. Then we started thinking more concretely about genre and going: Well, what are the subgenres that we haven't done that might be interesting? Like a prospector story or a covered wagon story or a stagecoach story."

Changing film economics also helped. "Buster Scruggs" was financed by Megan Ellison's Annapurna Pictures, which sold the film to Netflix for distribution. Early reports suggested it would be a series, but the Coens always envisioned the shorts as a connected whole.

The initial confusion, along with the unexpected pairing of the Coens — among the most proudly old-school filmmakers — and Netflix, made "A Ballad of Buster Scruggs" a little more confounding than the typical Coen release. What did the Coens think of the arrangement?

"We came into the business at a time when ancillary markets, which were essentially home video markets, were really responsible for the fact that we were able to get our movies financed. Sometimes, that was the principle way our movies were seen. So if you look at 'The Big Lebowski,' it did a reasonable amount of box office but it did a

phenomenal amount of DVDs. People primarily saw that movie on their television sets," says Joel Coen. "For us to get too precious about it would be a little bit strange."

"The Ballad of Buster Scruggs," which is now streaming on Netflix, was the first film by the streaming company to have an exclusive theatrical run before hitting Netflix. It first played for a week in two theaters and Netflix didn't report opening grosses. It was a strangely unceremonious launch for the latest film from a pair of America's most respected filmmakers, and Joel — while stressing that Netflix was great to work with — acknowledges he would have preferred a more robust theatrical release.

"Sure. Absolutely," Coen says. "I also understand what the pressures are, what the thinking is from the point of view of the company. I think it's all evolving still. I'm hopeful that it will evolve in a way that everyone gets what they want. Everything's been thrown up in the air and we'll see where it lands."

The studios are sort of out of the business of making the kinds of movies we make. That's why it's important for these companies to be around. They're figuring it out, and they're figuring

out what filmmakers need from an exhibition point-of-view."

One advantage of "Buster Scruggs" streaming is that it gives viewers the immediate chance to intimately watch, re-watch and examine a top-tier Coen brothers film, one that revises and contorts old Western myths in morality tales where the only reprieve from death is a good story — and that won't save you, either.

Tim Blake Nelson, also the escaped convict Delmar O'Donnell in "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" has had time to ponder the Coens' tragicomic worldview.

"Joel and Ethan are decidedly steeped in the Old Testament," says Nelson. "The world is a really unruly, violent and difficult place.

It's also widely unpredictable. The best we can do is adhere to structure and law and a devotion to powers that are not only beyond our comprehension but completely inscrutable. But even doing what we're supposed to do is futile, and we're going to get sideswiped."

Zoe Kazan, a Coen newbie who stars in the Oregon trail chapter "The Gal Who Got Rattled," prepped for the occasion by joyfully re-watching every Coen brothers movie. "However successful they have been

at doing one thing, they're not afraid of trying a different kind of thing," said Kazan. "I watched actor after actor just have a great time."

Though there are a handful of naturalistic performances in their films (Oscar Isaac in "Inside Llewyn Davis," Bill Heck in "Buster Scruggs"), Nelson acknowledges that when he or other regulars like Steve Buscemi, John Turturro or Frances McDormand (who has been married to Joel since 1984) are summoned, "these are not actors who are going to wake up and look in the mirror and think: 'All right, I've been called in to do this one for my quiet subtlety,'" Nelson says, laughing.

"They want character actors to take the sorts of chances that Peter Lorre and Sydney Greenstreet and Ernest Borgnine were taking back when directors were generous enough to give them roles," says Nelson. "That's the kind of face they want to put in their movies. It goes back to an earlier time."

The classic Hollywood genres (noir, screwball, Western), as well as literary ones, have likewise held an extraordinary power over the Coens, even if their interpretations add layers of absurdism. "The Big Lebowski," for example, is at heart a kind of warped Raymond Chandler detective tale. "Buster Scruggs" is, in a way, their John Ford movie.

"It's always interesting that if you're dealing with something that has certain rules or expectations that the reader or the audience is familiar with, to play around with those expectations or, to a certain extent, bend or break the rules," says Joel Coen. "It's a way of thinking about stories. I guess it's a little bit like if you're a poet there are different forms you can write it. You can write a sonnet."

"There's very little that's completely original," Coen concludes, "and I'm not sure that that's even very interesting when it does happen." And then he chuckles. □

# Prosecco's bubble shows no sign of bursting

By COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

**ASOLO, Italy (AP)** — Prosecco, the fruity sparkling wine made in the northeastern hills of Italy is gaining in global popularity — and producers of Champagne, for so long the dominant bubbly wine, are taking note.

Prosecco has become the best-selling sparkling wine in the world by volume, and experts say it is eroding the market share of Champagne, the French wine that is synonymous with celebration but also comes with a heftier price tag. The Italian wine's production eclipsed Champagne's five years ago and is now 75 percent higher at 544 million bottles.

Champagne still claims the revenues crown, cashing in a record 4.9 billion euros (\$5.6 billion) last year on 307 million bottles, 2.8 billion euros of that in exports. But Prosecco's bubble shows no sign of bursting: exports this year are trending up 16 percent over last year's 804 million-euro (\$913 million) high. Adding insult to injury, sales are surging 40 percent in Champagne's home country, France, according to one estimate. And those figures don't reflect the seasonal Christmas sales bump of 20 percent.

Michael Edwards, an expert who has been a wine judge for Decanter magazine and wrote the book "The Finest Wines of Champagne," says consumers are increasingly interested in sparkling wines.

"Prosecco capitalizes on the desire to drink sparkling wine, not necessarily Champagne," he says.



In this image taken on Monday, Oct. 15, 2018, wine grower Adelino Pizzobon checks a bunch of grapes in a Prosecco vineyard at the Case Paolin farm, in Volpago del Montello, Italy.

Associated Press

The Italian bubbly's success is attributed to its lower price and its profile as an anytime libation, making it popular in Great Britain, the United States and Germany, markets where Champagne has long flourished. Jowin Lepper Carberry, a consultant for a medical devices company in Baltimore, Maryland, tried Prosecco at the beach four years ago, and liked it so much she started making frozen smoothies with it for friends at her pool. She moved on to making cocktails for dinner parties and has used Prosecco instead of Champagne for the past four New Year's Eves. "My initial reason for trying it at the beach is because it was less expensive than Champagne. Now I use it because I prefer it to Champagne," she said. With an average production cost of 3.70 euros (\$4.20) per bottle, a frac-

tion of Champagne's average 10.24 euros (\$11.63), Prosecco can be purchased at a price that makes it easier to buy as an after-work drink or for a casual gathering, without pomp and circumstance. The lower price is in part made possible by a simpler production method. It has two processes of fermentation, both in large tanks, whereas Champagne's second fermentation period is done while the wine is bottled. That requires storing the Champagne bottles at an angle and turning them slightly every day by hand to help the fermentation — expensive manual labor when done over thousands of bottles.

Prosecco producers themselves are taken aback by their wine's success, and mindful not to squander it. They are up against not only imitators, but also other sparkling wines, like Spain's Cava, which still does not rival Prosecco in terms of global sales, and Germany's Sekt, which experts say has improved in quality.

"As the old innkeepers used to say, even the fountain outside the bar is competition," said Armando Serena the head of the Asolo Consortium of Prosecco makers. "But it is certainly not a phenomenon that we expected. It is cause for reflection for (Champagne

wider Veneto region and four in neighboring Friuli Venezia Giulia, right up to the Slovenian border. That change, made in 2009, has helped producers better control quality and fight against counterfeiters.

The most renowned of the three consortiums, Conegliano Valdobbiadene, is trying to get the territory recognized by UNESCO as a world heritage site, a label that experience in other regions shows boosts both tourism and the value of the product. Champagne received its UNESCO status in 2015.

Prosecco makers are betting future success on higher quality, and higher-priced vintages. The best Valdobbiadene can cost up to 30 euros (\$34).

Sebastiano Bonomo, export manager at the Giusti Dal Col winery near Treviso, said he can imagine one day high-end restaurants keeping a Prosecco list, like they do for Champagne, based on geographic denominations and zones.

"That is the plan we should go for, being able to bring knowledge about our territory, just like the knowledge off Champagne was spread to the entire world," Bonomo said.

Asolo is the smallest of the three consortia making Prosecco, but it has expanded its vineyards by 86 percent from 2011 to 2017. That has given much needed economic stimulus to a region that suffered a blow with the failure of two regional banks that devoured billions in savings. □



In this image taken on Monday, Oct. 15, 2018, wine grower Adelino Pizzobon inspects a Prosecco vineyard at the Case Paolin farm, in Volpago del Montello, Italy.

Associated Press



In this image taken on Monday, Oct. 15, 2018, wine grower Adelino Pizzobon opens a container of Prosecco wine, at the Case Paolin farm, in Volpago del Montello, Italy.

Associated Press